

Sugar and rice prices reduced

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has decided to reduce by 12.5 per cent the prices of sugar and rice for consumers as of Saturday, May 2, upon directives of His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Supply and Industry and Trade Rajal Al Mawar announced Wednesday. Dr. Munster said he issued decisions fixing the wholesale price per each tonne of sugar at JD 128 from the Ministry of Supply stores, down from JD 148, and the retail sale price per one kilogramme of sugar at 140 fils, down from 160 fils. The wholesale price of imported rice, he added, has been fixed at JD 125 per tonne from the Ministry of Supply stores, down from JD 145, and while the retail sale price of rice for consumers has been fixed at 140 fils, down from 160 fils. The minister added that the reduction in the prices of the two items has been made possible as a result of the ministry's efforts aimed at making available the two materials at best quality and best world prices.

Jordan Times

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May Day holiday

The Jordan Times will not be published on Saturday, May 2, because of the Labour Day holiday on Friday, May 1. The next issue of the newspaper will appear on Sunday, May 3. The Jordan Times wishes its readers and advertisers a happy holiday.

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Iraqi leader congratulates King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday received a cable from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein congratulating him on the occasion of the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Jordan-Egypt panel to meet on May 5

CAIRO (Petra) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee will hold its sixth session in Amman on May 5. Egyptian Prime Minister Ataf Sedqi will head the Egyptian side in the joint committee's meetings. During its two-day meetings the committee will discuss issues and topics of concern to the two countries and ways to strengthen bilateral relations.

Romania honours Jordanian envoy

BUCHAREST (Petra) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu received here on Wednesday Jordanian Ambassador to Romania Naser Al Batayneh on the occasion of the end of the envoy's term in office in Romania. President Ceausescu asked Dr. Batayneh to convey his best wishes and greetings to His Majesty King Hussein. The president also conferred upon Dr. Batayneh a Romanian Medal of the First Order in appreciation of the close relations linking Jordan and Romania.

Gromyko: Gulf war must end

MOSCOW (R) — The Gulf war should be brought to a quick end regardless of who was to blame in starting it, Soviet President Andrei Gromyko said Wednesday. "No matter what scales are used to weigh the fault of one or the other side in the war ... and the reasons behind that terrible conflict, there is only one conclusion — that it must be stopped," TASS news agency quoted him as telling a visiting delegation from the Arab League.

Pakistani jet downed near border

ISLAMABAD (R) — A Pakistan air force jet was shot down on Wednesday chasing Afghan aircraft near the north-west border, the official APP news agency reported. It said the plane was hit by a missile when chasing a formation of intruding Afghan aircraft near Miranshah in the north Waziristan tribal area. The plane crashed near the Pakistan-Afghan border but the pilot ejected safely and taken back to base, APP said.

Settler injured in Gaza stoning

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli settler had eye injuries when stones shattered the windshield of his lorry near Bureij Palestinian refugee camp, in the occupied Gaza Strip, Israel police said Wednesday. A convoy of settlers drove through the camp after the late-night incident in a show of force but there were no incidents, police said. Outside Jelazoun refugee camp, in the Occupied West Bank, the driver of an Israeli bus was slightly injured when his vehicle was pelted with stones, police said.

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Syria reportedly bars Hawatmeh, Habash

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — The Syrians have warned Palestinian leaders Nayef Hawatmeh and George Habash who have reunited with Yasser Arafat that it was not safe for them to return to Damascus, the Gulf News daily reported Wednesday.

The Dubai-based English-language newspaper quoted Mr. Hawatmeh, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), in a report from Algiers.

Mr. Hawatmeh and Dr. Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), were the main figures in Syrian-backed Palestinian groups until they ended a four-year rift with Mr. Arafat last week in Algiers.

Mr. Hawatmeh was quoted as saying the Syrians warned himself and Dr. Habash, who split from Mr. Arafat in 1983, not to return to their former headquarters in Damascus.

"No reason was given," he said. "We couldn't understand

the move."

He said that the final communiqué of the Palestine National Council (PNC) in Algiers had "stressed good relations with Syria."

Mr. Hawatmeh said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "will try its best to rebuild relations with Syria due to the strategic importance of such cooperation to the Palestinian struggle."

He called on Damascus to deal with the reunited PLO "as a fact."

Palestinian sources in the Gulf earlier said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had warned Dr. Habash to choose between attending the PNC, boycotted by other radical factions, and rela-

tions with Damascus.

The sources, quoted by AP, said they expected a Syrian-backed coup within the PFLP, apparently aimed at splitting it from the PLO again.

The Gulf News quoted Mr. Arafat as expressing surprise at Egypt's closure Monday of PLO offices in Cairo in response to a PNC resolution restricting PLO relations with Syria because of its 1979 treaty with Israel.

"The PNC's final report stressed close ties between the Palestinian and Egyptian people," Mr. Arafat said. "Cairo should not thank us for this by breaking off relations."

"We were not aiming to cut relations with Egypt, but since they've done so, we would tell them they ought also to close the Israeli missions in Cairo and Alexandria," he said.

"Our relations with the Egyptian people will continue," Mr. Arafat was quoted as saying. "This aggressive attack will be rejected by the people of Egypt."

(Continued on page 3)

Walsh files first criminal case in secret U.S. arms sales to Iran

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The special prosecutor probing the Iran arms scandal announced on Wednesday the first criminal charges in the affair, alleging that a conservative political fund-raiser conspired to defraud the government.

The charges against Carl (Spitz) Channell were the first brought by prosecutor Lawrence Walsh during his four-month-old investigation into secret U.S. arms sales to Iran and U.S. efforts to aid the Nicaraguan contra rebels.

Mr. Walsh charged that Mr. Channell, the head of the National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty, had conspired with others to defraud the government's tax collecting agency "by impeding, impairing, defeating and obstructing the governmental functions of the Internal Revenue Service."

A criminal information is a charge made directly by a prosecutor and filed with a court, as opposed to an indictment, which is returned by a grand jury.

The charge, the first filed since Mr. Walsh's position was created in December, carries a maximum penalty upon conviction of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The information charged that the National Endowment for the Preservation of Liberty was being used for unlawful purpose, "namely, to solicit contributions to purchase military and other types of non-humanitarian aid for the contras."

In another development, congressional sources said retired Major General Richard Secord, a key figure in the Iran affair, had agreed to testify without immunity from prosecution.

They said Gen. Secord would testify at congressional hearings on the scandal starting next week. They said no decision had been made on whether he would be the first witness.

In a report to Congress on Tuesday Mr. Walsh said his criminal investigation into the scandal covered possible violations by high government officials.

He said the scope of the probe was unprecedented since the Watergate investigations that forced President Richard Nixon to resign in 1974.

"The allegations in the investigation concern possible viola-

tions of public trust and possible misuse of position by high government officials and their manipulation by former government officials," he said in the report.

"Large sums of public money are unaccounted for and those most knowledgeable resist public disclosure," Mr. Walsh said.

Channell pleads guilty and implicates North

WASHINGTON (R) — A right-wing political fund-raiser on Wednesday pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to defraud the U.S. government in connection with the Iran arms scandal and implicated fired White House aide Oliver North in the scheme.

Asked by U.S. District Judge Stanley Harris who he conspired with, Carl "Spitz" Channell replied: "Colonel North and Richard Miller (president of a public relation firm)." Mr. Miller worked in President Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign and later was appointed to a job in the Agency for International Development (AID). Mr. Channell pledged to cooperate with the continuing investigation. A sentencing date was postponed pending completion of his cooperation with the prosecuting team.

An international conference leading directly to direct bilateral negotiations ... has been acceptable to Ronald Reagan and George Shultz for some time, but their feeling has been that this not possible," Mr. Novick said.

"When, days to weeks ago, a breakthrough was achieved, the historical meaning of this was not lost on them," he said.

Mr. Peres, speaking in a television interview Tuesday night, said: "The Americans have conducted negotiations and now ... it became clear the sides are ready to convene an international opening (conference) which will not be empowered to impose solutions."

The sides "are ready for the talks to be bilateral, within the framework of regional committees," Mr. Peres said, adding that one committee would include

Egypt to expel Palestinian brigade

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's break with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will include the expulsion of an inactive Palestinian brigade, the last PLO fighters in Egypt, sources close to the government said Wednesday.

The break announced on Monday also is being reflected in Cairo's state-owned press. One editor, a confidant of President Hosni Mubarak, has called on the government to stop helping the PLO and let it seek a Middle East settlement on its own.

Egypt created the Ain Jalout brigade about 30 years ago, but it has been dormant, its members housed in Egyptian military camps, since the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

The brigade's expulsion was part of the Egyptian decision to sever ties with the PLO, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In making the announcement, Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul

Meguid said all PLO offices in Egypt were closed but did not mention the 'Ain Jalout Brigade. The sources said the government has set no deadline for the force to leave Egypt and that most or all probably would go to Algeria or Iraq.

Estimates of the present size of the brigade, named for a 13th-century battle in which Egyptians defeated the Mongol Hordes in Palestine, ranged between several hundred and 3,000.

President Gamal Abdul Nasser established, financed and trained the brigade in the late 1950s. It later became part of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), which officially was the PLO's military wing.

The 'Ain Jalout Brigade remained under Egyptian control throughout, a symbol of Egyptian support for the Palestinian cause, but was not used after the 1973 war.

In 1983, the Cairo government

offered to help the brigade go to Lebanon to aid PLO leader Yasser Arafat and his forces, under siege by pro-Syrian militias and Syrian troops in the northern city of Tripoli.

The brigade refused, the sources said.

Egypt broke with the PLO in reprisal for a resolution by the Palestine National Council meeting last week in Algiers that restricted ties with Egypt so long as its treaty with Israel remained in force.

In Washington on Tuesday, U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman had no reaction to Egypt's closing of PLO offices but he added that "we've long supported Egypt's commitments to practical efforts to achieve peace in the region."

He said that Egyptian reaction to the PNC resolution to link relations with Egypt to abrogation of the Camp David accords, "is an internal Egyptian matter."

Resistance fighters attack Israeli post

TYRE, Lebanon (R) — Lebanese resistance fighters attacked an Israeli position on the edge of Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon on Wednesday, security sources said.

They said the Israelis retaliated by shelling four villages. There was no immediate report of casualties.

U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) sources said about 50 Israeli shells and mortar bombs landed in the villages and that a nearby position of Lebanese UNIFIL troops was damaged.

The security sources said the fighters attacked the Israeli hill position at Yater, 18 kilometres southeast of Tyre and six kilometres north of the Israeli border.

The commandos' two-pronged assault with machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades lasted at least 90 minutes, the sources said.

Israel's "security zone" is a belt of rocky hill country about 10 kilometres deep north of the Israeli border patrolled by about 1,000 Israeli troops and the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia.

The human-wave style of the attack was similar to that of previous attacks by the Islamic Resistance, a coalition of mainly Shi'ite Muslim, pro-Iranian

Lebanese radicals.

The Islamic Resistance mounted their last big attack on an Israeli position on April 18. Israel said 25 Islamic militants were killed and four Israelis hurt, while the Islamic resistance said 30-40 Israelis were killed.

Islamic Resistance leader Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid told Reuters in the South Lebanon village of Jibsheet on Tuesday: "I expect the guerrilla operations to continue."

"Resistance against Israel will be stiffer next time. The more the fatal casualties inflicted on our people, the more the hatred will be against Israel," Sheikh Obeid said.

Israeli official claims 'breakthrough' for talks

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An aide to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres claimed Wednesday a breakthrough had been achieved in recent efforts to start an Arab-Israeli dialogue on Middle East peace.

Ninor Novick, Mr. Peres' political advisor, said in an Israeli Radio interview that the development had encouraged U.S. President Ronald Reagan's hopes for progress in efforts to start peace negotiations.

"An international conference leading directly to direct bilateral negotiations ... has been acceptable to Ronald Reagan and George Shultz for some time, but their feeling has been that this not possible," Mr. Novick said.

"When, days to weeks ago, a breakthrough was achieved, the historical meaning of this was not lost on them," he said.

Mr. Peres, speaking in a television interview Tuesday night, said: "The Americans have conducted negotiations and now ... it became clear the sides are ready to convene an international opening (conference) which will not be empowered to impose solutions."

The sides "are ready for the talks to be bilateral, within the framework of regional committees," Mr. Peres said, adding that one committee would include

Jordan, Israel and Palestinian representatives.

Despite Mr. Peres' increasing public confidence about the chances for a new peace process, neither he nor Mr. Novick has offered any solid evidence to justify the optimism.

Mr. Reagan sent Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir a message this week urging Israel to pursue all avenues towards peace, although Mr. Shamir said there was no specific mention of an international conference.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering told AP on Tuesday: "It's fair to say there has been recently some very significant progress made. Obviously, it remains to be described in full detail, but I think it's important."

"The hope is that we can find a process, possibly through an international conference, that can obtain the objective" of direct talks, "Mr. Pickering said. "We're working on that and we think it's growing closer as time goes on."

Israel Television, quoting senior political sources, reported Tuesday that Mr. Pickering recently presented to Mr. Peres and Mr. Shamir with a U.S. working paper promoting the conference idea as an opening move for direct talks between the parties.

Waldheim assails Meese for ban without proving charges

VIENNA (Agencies) — President Kurt Waldheim, his voice quavering, on Wednesday attacked U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese for barring him from the United States without proving allegations he took part in Nazi atrocities during World War II.

In a speech in Eisenstadt, 60 kilometres south of Vienna, Dr. Waldheim departed from prepared remarks to express his hurt at the decision, and to assail Mr. Meese for placing him on a "watch list" of undesirable aliens.

"What use are the statements of Mr. Meese that it's just a suspicion on the basis of which he was put on the so-called watch list?" Dr. Waldheim asked, his voice shaking with emotion.

"We didn't say he was guilty, we just voiced a suspicion," he said, in an apparent mocking imitation of American authorities.

The U.S. Justice Department says evidence shows Dr. Waldheim aided in the deportation and execution of thousands of Jews and partisans while a lieutenant in the German army in the Balkans.

On Tuesday, Mr. Meese said Dr. Waldheim "participated in persecutions for reasons of race or religion under the Nazi regime."

"We have gone over his record

Iraqis rocket Panamanian bulk carrier

BAHRAIN (AP) — An Iraqi warplane hit a Panamanian bulk carrier chartered by Iran with a French-made Exocet missile in the northern sector of the Gulf Wednesday, Gulf-based marine salvage executives reported.

They said the Saudi Arabian tanker Sara Ghawar reported at 10:50 a.m. that the 45,330-tonne Pamit, an oil products carrier, was "hit in the engine room by an unknown object," starting a fire.

The London-based Lloyds shipping intelligence unit confirmed the attack. It said the Pamit was operated by a Greek firm.

The Iraqi News Agency reported an air strike on an unidentified "large maritime target" off the Iranian coast.

The agency quoted a military spokesman in Baghdad as saying the fighter-bombers scored an accurate hit and returned to base safely.

On the warfront, Iraq said Tuesday its forces had killed and wounded more than 1,500 Iranians in two days of fighting in the north and denied Iranian reports of major fighting in the area.

A Baghdad military spokesman described the Tehran reports as "an idiot and exposed informational fuss," the Iraqi News Agency said.

"The only fighting which took place in the past 48 hours were two aborted attempts to approach border mountain peaks where the Iranians lost more than 1,500 men killed and wounded and the destruction of 66 vehicles," the spokesman said.

meticulously," Mr. Meese said in Brussels. "We permitted Mr. Waldheim and his lawyers to submit all kinds of facts or evidence," for his defence, "but his evidence was not sufficient." The attorney general did not make public the evidence he said the United States had.

Dr. Waldheim said he had been "spiritually wounded" by the U.S. decision.

"All over the world the basic principles of justice are valid that a person may be called guilty only when his guilt has been proved," he said.

"... In this case this basic principle has been seriously damaged."

Meanwhile, as calls grew stronger for Socialist Chancellor Franz Vranitzky to cancel a U.S. trip because of the ban, his spokesman Karl Krammer told Reuters the government was following a policy of damage limitation and would take no precipitate action.

Mr. Krammer said a decision whether Mr. Vranitzky would go ahead with the official U.S. visit scheduled for May 21 would be taken only after Austria had examined the documents and grounds on which the U.S. Justice Department made its decision.

"No, not at all," Mr. Mulrony replied.

Superpowers launch marathon talks in Geneva

GENEVA (Agencies) — U.S. and Soviet arms negotiators began marathon talks on Wednesday in an all-out bid to forge a common draft treaty scrapping their medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe and determining future levels for their shorter-range nuclear arsenals.

The meeting at the Soviet diplomatic mission was the first at which the superpower "Euromissile" negotiators had two rival draft treaties before them.

Teams led by Soviet General Vladimir Medvedev and American career diplomat Maynard Glitman will seek to construct a single treaty document from their recently-presented varying drafts.

Moscow introduced a "Euromissile" draft accord and annexes on Monday. These called for eliminating all U.S. and Soviet medium-range (1,000-5,000 kilometres) and shorter-range (500-1,000 kilometres) nuclear missiles in Europe.

An American draft was introduced on March 4. It also called for scrapping medium-range mis-

siles in Europe but sought an equal number of shorter-range weapons to maintain a balanced nuclear deterrent.

The present talks, the eighth round of negotiations since the superpowers resumed their arms control effort in March 1985, opened on April 23.

Western diplomats following the talks said this was likely to be the make-or-break effort to reach an agreement during the Reagan administration, which leaves office in January 1989.

After a treaty is signed, it must be ratified by the U.S. Senate and most Western diplomats felt this would have to be done before the U.S. presidential election campaign moves into high gear early next year.

The U.S. State Department said Tuesday the Soviet proposal to eliminate West German nuclear missiles as part of a weapons-reduction treaty "suggests a lack of serious intent."

The 72 missiles are under joint U.S. and West German control. Alexei Obukhov, a Soviet nego-

tiator, said in Geneva the missiles "must go" if there is a U.S.-Soviet treaty to eliminate shorter-range rockets from Europe.

The State Department, through spokesman Charles E. Redman, resisted the proposal. Redman said the Soviets had not raised the Pershing 1A missiles in previous rounds of negotiations.

"For them to raise it now suggests a lack of serious intent," the U.S. official said.

Official sources in both delegations said negotiators in Geneva were determined to maintain the new momentum in the talks and their work was almost certain to run uninterrupted through the summer and perhaps beyond.

The rounds are normally six to eight weeks.

The diplomats said that although the superpowers were closer to an arms accord than at any time in the past 10 years, any differences between the draft treaties were substantial and an enormous amount of work remained.

The negotiators, some 15 on

each side, have split into three groups which will seek common ground on ways to verify against cheating on a pact, to synchronise missile reductions and to work out acceptable legal language for a treaty.

The Soviet draft confirmed that the superpowers agree on the central issue: Scrapping all 270 Soviet triple-warhead SS-20 and 112 single-warhead SS-4 missiles in Europe in return for elimination of all 316 U.S. single-warhead Pershing-2 and cruise missiles stationed in West Europe.

The so-called "Euromissiles," or medium-range missiles, "can travel 1,000 to 5,000 kilometres and have been the focus of the European nuclear arms debate since Moscow started deploying the weapons in 1977."

But the Soviet draft also revealed sharp differences on ways to verify against cheating on an accord, how to deal with Soviet superiority in shorter-range missiles and whether to count 72 West German Pershing-1A rockets as American weapons.

Study says Iran arms scandal badly damaged U.S. influence

LONDON (R) — Serious errors by the Reagan administration culminating in the Iran arms scandal have severely damaged U.S. influence around the world, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said Thursday.

In its annual strategic survey of world events, the respected London-based institute said that Reagan had suffered a crucial loss of influence in the Gulf, the Middle East and Central America while his role in spearheading the fight against international terrorism had also been badly undercut.

The IISS, a private defence research body, said Mr. Reagan's performance contrasted with that of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev whose dynamic leadership showed signs of shifting Soviet policy out of its traditional inertia.

In a devastating critique of the

Reagan administration, the report lambasted the president's disregard for detail and the disrespect for the law shown by some of his officials.

"It was Reagan's approach and style of management that provided the soil in which the disaster could flourish. His failure to act as virtually ensured that the most powerful nation in the Western alliance will face the challenges of the coming year with its ability to conduct a forceful foreign policy badly compromised," the report said.

"Its ability to affect events in the Middle East, with regard to terrorism, the Iran-Iraq war and

the Arab-Israeli conflict, not to mention Central America, will not be easily recovered."

The report said Mr. Gorbachev meanwhile showed an acute grasp of the grave problems facing Soviet society but still appeared to lack the wholehearted support of his colleagues and subordinates to carry through the necessary changes.

The institute criticised both superpowers for missing a vital chance to move towards a significant breakthrough on arms control at last October's Reykjavik summit.

Rather than discussing, as they should have done, the basis of an agenda for a full summit in 1987 which offered prospects for an agreement, the superpowers pursued "dreams and visions of a world without nuclear weapons and also, for President Reagan, a world with perfect defences."

"A sense of unreality pervaded the negotiations," the report said, adding:

"Without some progress on arms control a further meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan is unlikely and U.S.-Soviet relations may well move from quiescence to quarrelling."

Turning to regional issues, the report highlighted the difficulties faced by Philippine President Corason Aquino, pressed both by leftist guerrillas and right-wing supporters of the previous Marcos regime supported by dissident elements in the military.

In the Gulf, the institute said Iran's efforts to win its seven-year war with Iraq received a psychological boost from the supply of U.S. arms.

But it remained unclear how long Tehran could go on throwing its manpower at Iraqi defences and how long those defences would continue to hold.

Iran boasts of most powerful missile system in Gulf

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iran has installed the most powerful coast-to-sea missile system in the Gulf, a Revolutionary Guards commander was quoted as saying.

The official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted the commander, Hussein A'laie, as saying also that within the next year Iran would build a radar system to cover the whole Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

The report, monitored in Nicosia, followed Iran's installation earlier in the year of Chinese-made Silkworm missiles at the Strait of Hormuz, gateway to the Gulf and a vital artery for oil exports.

The missile deployment has worried Arab countries in the Gulf, including Kuwait, which has asked for Soviet and American help in protecting its oil shipping.

Iran has accused Kuwait of backing Iraq in the Gulf war. Other countries' shipping has been hit in tit-for-tat attacks.

U.S. to send food relief to Lebanon

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it would send food worth \$5.5 million to the needy in war-torn Lebanon.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters the first consignment of food, including rice, lentils, instant milk and vegetable oil, would arrive in July.

More would follow over the next six months for distribution to "approximately 100,000 needy, displaced and war-affected families in all parts of Lebanon, regardless of confessional affiliation," he said.

Mr. Redman said children and the elderly would be prime targets of food to be distributed by the Save the Children Federation. He said U.S. officials would not be involved.

Envoy sees Iranian expulsion of 2 Australians as limited action

NICOSIA (R) — Iran, which expelled two Australian diplomats over an Australian television satire, is keen not to spoil normal links between the two countries, Australia's ambassador to Iran, John Lander, said Wednesday.

"The Iranian authorities did not want to target the heart of our government-to-government relationship by expelling anyone political," Mr. Lander told Reuters by telephone from Tehran.

"They are anxious that a good bilateral relationship will continue," he said. "Up until this programme, relations were very good indeed, very few signs of significant problems... I am not expecting any further developments."

Expelled Senior Trade Commissioner John Gurr and Senior Administrative Officer David Poulter will leave Tehran by the end of the week after stays of about a year, Mr. Lander said.

He said Iranian officials did not threaten or mention Australia's \$200 million exports to Iran — including 10 per cent of the country's wheat exports — and he

hoped joint projects would continue as planned.

Mr. Lander said Iranian Foreign Ministry protocol Chief Mahmoud Khandagabadi ordered the expulsions on Monday as a "gesture of protest" due to "continued dissatisfaction with Australian propaganda."

Iran says a satirical sketch transmitted on Australia's state-owned Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) defamed Islam and Iranian values.

The sketch included a mock interview with Iranian spiritual Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in which the revolutionary leader threatened to "blow up the world."

Mr. Lander said he had explained to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Husein Sheikholeslam on Friday that the Australian government was not responsible for the sketch.

"I pointed out... that it did not reflect the Australian government's attitude towards Iran and that the Australian government considered it regrettable," Mr. Lander said.

Mr. Lander said the Iranian minister had not made any demands and had not hinted at the time that any expulsions would be made. But he added: "Given the precedents, one could not describe this as unexpected."

In February, Iran ordered out two West German diplomats after a television satire depicted Khomeini being showered with women's underwear. In November last year, Iran expelled three Italian diplomats to protest another television show.

While such actions please Iran's revolutionary hardliners, Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani recently told a news conference that the expulsion of the West Germans may have been an over-reaction.

In December 1982, Australia ordered two Iranian diplomats out of the country after the expulsion from Tehran of two of its diplomats. But, so far, "Camberra has not hinted at any retaliation for the latest Iranian move."

"I generally feel that tit-for-tat moves don't take things very far," Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said.

Chad rebel leader arrives in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU (R) — A Libyan-backed Chadian rebel leader is in the west African state of Burkina Faso for talks on the Chadian conflict, officials said Wednesday.

Acheikh Ibn Onmar, appointed last year head of the rebel Transitional Government of National Unity (GUNT), was greeted at the airport Tuesday night by Burkina Faso's second-in-command, Justice Minister Captain Blaise Compaore.

Mr. Acheikh, whose guerrillas are Libya's last Chadian allies, told reporters he wished to brief Burkina Faso's leader Capt. Thomas Sankara on the latest developments in Chad.

Capt. Sankara is already playing host to Mr. Acheikh's predecessor, former Chadian leader Goukouni Oueddei, who arrived during the weekend in Ouagadougou on the latest leg of a tour of African capitals.

It was not immediately clear whether the two men would meet under the auspices of Burkina Faso — one of the few African nations enjoying close links with Libya.

Mr. Goukouni is currently negotiating his return to N'Djamena after recognising Mr. Habre as Chad's sole legitimate leader.

An Organisation of African Unity (OAU) meeting on the 14-year-old Chad-Libya border conflict was due to end Wednesday in the Gabonese capital Libreville.

Both countries claim sovereignty over a 110,000 square kilometres stretch of desert, known as the Aouzou Strip, administered by Libya since 1975.

Libya stayed away from the inaugurating session Tuesday, saying in a note to Gabon the meeting was unnecessary. Chad is represented by Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou.

3 million Somalis reportedly face starvation

MOGADISHU (R) — Three million Somalis face starvation because of drought, according to Interior Minister Brigadier General Ahmad Sulaiman Abdullah.

About 600 Somalis, mostly children and elderly people, have already died of starvation over the last two months, Gen. Abdullah told an emergency meeting Tuesday.

He said that failure of the rains which normally fall in March and April had also caused the loss of thousands of livestock.

Drought has hit 12 of the country's 18 regions over the last two years in some parts of this Horn of Africa nation.

The worst affected areas are in the north east and centre of Somalia, while even in the south, where the rainfall is usually more reliable, people have been digging holes in dry river beds hoping to extract water, the minister said.

Reporters, who visited the drought-stricken areas in early March, were told that nomads had lost 60 per cent of their sheep and goats.

Israelis involved in Iran deal said to be protected

WASHINGTON (R) — Israeli citizens involved in the secret sales of U.S. arms to Iran were working for the Israeli government which should protect them from congressional investigations, the Israeli ambassador to the United States said Tuesday.

"You could not have a situation whereby individuals that act for a government would appear before a committee of another state," Meir Rosenne told an audience at the Conservative Heritage Foundation, an independent research organisation.

Mr. Rosenne was responding to published reports that Israel was seeking immunity for its citizens from any criminal prosecution and control over public disclosure of its data on the arms sales and diversion of profits to "contra" rebels in Nicaragua.

"There are some elements concerning legal aspects of (the presentation of Israeli information) that have to be secured," he said without elaborating.

Israel has sought the right to veto the public release of any information it turns over to congressional committees, the Washington Post reported.

The Post said congressional investigators had rejected Israel's conditions. Israel also was reported to have sought assurances that none of the material would be turned over to Iran's special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh.

A presidential commission headed by former Senator John Tower found in February that Israel was deeply involved in the affair.

Among Israelis named by investigators as having played a key role in the arms deal were businessmen, Yaacov Nimrodi and Al Schwimmer, David Kinche, then director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry, and Amir Nir, an advisor to then prime minister, Shimon Peres.

Mr. Rosenne said he had been in touch with Mr. Walsh, but said Israel was transmitting all documents through the State Department.

Mr. Rosenne added that Israel was approaching the affair as a government-to-government matter.

Kurdish rebels kill 11 Turkish troops in ambush

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish insurgents ambushed and killed 11 Turkish troops near the Iraqi border in one of the most serious incidents in a 13-year guerrilla campaign for autonomy, military sources said Wednesday.

Troops hunting for rebels after a tip-off came under machinegun and grenade fire Tuesday night on a road near the south eastern Turkish town of Semdinli, 13 kilometres from the Iraqi frontier.

The sources said three rebels were also killed while others fled under cover of darkness. They identified the dead troops as a major, a lieutenant, a non-commissioned officer and eight privates.

The attacks was the most serious against security forces this year and one of the worst since autonomy-seeking guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) began an offensive in 1974.

Lawyers accuse Turkey of torturing detained students

ANKARA (R) — Lawyers for more than 50 students arrested in anti-government demonstrations last week accused police Wednesday of torturing some of them and failing to tell families their whereabouts.

Lawyers' spokesman Husnu Ondul told a news conference that around 250 students were held in protests against a proposal to restrict campus organisations, and that 65 of them were formally arrested.

The government withdrew the proposal from parliament after the protests and Prime Minister Turgut Ozal later said he had doubts about its merits.

Mr. Ondul said the families of most of the arrested students had not heard from them since they were detained on April 23.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
14:00... Koran
14:15... Children's cartoon
14:30... Local puzzle
14:45... Local puzzle
15:15... Cooking programme
15:30... Arabic play
15:45... Religious programme
16:00... Religious programme
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PROGRAMME TWO
18:00... Apophysis
18:15... News in French
18:30... Le Monde Selon Gorges
18:45... News in Hebrew
19:00... Sports Magazine
19:15... News in Arabic
19:30... Me and My Girl
19:45... The Challenge
20:00... News in English
20:15... The Challenge
20:30... News in English
20:45... The Challenge
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23:30... News in English
23:45... The Challenge
24:00... News in English

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 774111-19

7:00... Light Music
7:30... Morning Show
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FOR FRIDAY
JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
14:00... Koran
14:15... Children's cartoon
14:30... Local puzzle
14:45... Local puzzle
15:15... Cooking programme
15:30... Arabic play
15:45... Religious programme
16:00... Religious programme
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21:00... News Summary
21:15... Evening Show Contd.
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21:45... Evening Show Contd.
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23:15... Evening Show Contd.
23:30... News Summary
23:45... Evening Show Contd.
24:00... News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1223 KHz

07:00... Newsday
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08:15... Newsday
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VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 720, 955, 1170, 1925 and 1510 KHz

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RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& partly on 95.0 KHz, SW
Tel: 774111-19

07:00... Light Music
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WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"An art exhibition by Ahmad Na'wash at the French Cultural Centre (until May 6)

"An art exhibition by Saeed Obaidat and Isam Al Sabah at the Honoring Bank Gallery.

CINEMA

"Cesar" at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the French Cultural Centre.

FEATURE FILM

"A Star is Born" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre

BRITISH EDUCATION DAY

"The British Council is organising an information day on higher education and its institutions in Britain today (Thursday) between 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre... Tel. 6610267
American Centre... 64371
British Council... 64173
French Cultural Centre... 637005
Goethe Institute... 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre... 64203
Spanish Cultural Centre... 62049
Turkish Cultural Centre... 639777
Haya Arts Centre... 661995
Hassan Youth City... 661816
Y.W.C.A... 64173
Y.W.M.C.A... 64251
American Municipal Library... 64355
Univ. of Jordan Library... 84355

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.
Feldman Museum Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. You-visit. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabel Al Qal' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

SERVICE CLUBS

First Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.
Philadelphian Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.
Royal Automobile Club. Jabel Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 816534, 817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic). Jabel Lawehleh, Tel. 627440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Terzian Church (Roman Catholic). Jabel Lawehleh, near Italian Lycée, meets every Saturday at 5:30 p.m. Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox). Jabel Amman, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer). Jabel Amman, Tel. 678906.
Assyrian Catholic Church. Ashrafieh, Tel. 77131.
Armenian Orthodox Church. Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Raphael Church (Syrian Orthodox). Ashrafieh, Tel. 71761.
Assyrian International Church (Inter-denominational). Meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, Tel. 67534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church. Jabel Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Sair), Tel. 811295.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

10:00... Agaba (RJ)
10:30... Cairo (RJ)
11:00... Rome (RJ)
11:30... Doha, Bahrain (GF)
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OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

Local subsidiary rates in US dollars
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Committee draws on past experience in preparing for expatriates' conference

AMMAN (Petra) — All resolutions and recommendations passed by the first and second Jordanian Expatriates' Conferences, held in Amman in 1985 and 1986, have been implemented in the fields of social security and housing. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan said here Wednesday.

The minister was addressing a committee entrusted with preparing for the Third Expatriates' Conference, scheduled to be held in Amman between July 13 and 16. He said that the government is now finalising a law on dual nationality which will largely benefit expatriates and will be completed before convening the conference. The committee reviewed arrangements for holding the forthcoming conference and also discussed the resolutions and recommendations issued by the previous two conferences, as well as the activities and programmes planned for the July conference.

The minister said that he has already sent circulars to Jordanian embassies in Arab and foreign countries pertaining to the arrangements for the coming meeting. Most of the expatriates are concentrated in the Arabian Gulf states and these expatriates will be represented in the conference by delegates of their own choice and in relation to the size of Jordanian communities found in these countries, the minister pointed out.

He said that the Ministry of Labour and Social Development has been in touch with other government departments which were involved in the work of the previous conferences to prepare working papers on subjects they wish to submit to the delegates.

The Ministry of Labour has already requested the Foreign Ministry to submit a working paper on Jordan's national policy covering all developments which affected the country in the Arab and international scenes in the past year, and the Ministry of

Occupied Territories Affairs will submit a working paper featuring the 1986-1990 five-year development programme for the occupied West Bank. Mr. Haj Hassan noted.

Working papers

He said that the Central Bank of Jordan will present a working paper on the Kingdom's sound financial position, areas for investment and incentives given to investors in agricultural and tourist fields. The Ministry of Labour will submit a working paper tackling the internal and external labour markets.

The minister told the meeting that a comprehensive report on the outcome of the first two expatriate conferences and the working papers submitted to them has been compiled by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development and will be distributed to Jordanian embassies abroad for the benefit of the invited delegates.

Election registration to begin on May 3

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arrangements have been made for registering people to vote for the upcoming parliamentary election; the process of registration will commence in the country on May 3 and end on May 17, Minister of Interior Rajai Dajani announced here Wednesday.

He said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the "family book" issued by the Civil Registration Department and its branches around the Kingdom will be the only acceptable document to prove identity for the registration of voters.

The Ministry of Interior will assign two registers, one for males and the other for females, at each of the 700 registration offices around the country to avoid congestion, the minister said. He said that voters can go to these registration centres or send someone on their behalf to register for them, accompanied with the "family book" proving their identity.

All Jordanians born before June 6, 1968 can have their names registered for voting in the elections, and this can be done in the registration centre assigned at their respective constituencies. Mr. Dajani noted. He said that, according to the election law, people of 19 years of age and above are eligible to vote in

parliamentary elections.

In order to facilitate the process of registration for bedouins living in the central and southern sectors of the Kingdom or outside these zones, they will have their names included in special registration books, the minister pointed out.

He said once the registration of voters has been completed, the registered names will be made public for three days to allow for any comments or objections or complaints. This will be followed by a process of drawing up the final lists to make them ready for the election.

Provincial governors have already embarked on preparations for the registration of voters in their different areas. The lists are being prepared in conformity with Cabinet instructions issued to the governors last Saturday.

The term of office of the present Lower House of Parliament ends in January 1988 and the present house is expected to reconvene in ordinary session in October after a recess that started in late February.

An extension of the mandate of the present Lower House or a call for a general election depends totally on a Royal Decree in accordance with the Jordanian constitution.

Khayyat to open market for Ramadan in Nuzha

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Sheikh Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Thursday will open a Ramadan market complex in Independence Street, near the Nuzha district of Amman.

The market, which will be open throughout the whole month of Ramadan, offers shoppers a variety of commodities and food supplies as well as other products at competitive prices.

The market has special wings for holding religious sessions and for teaching and reading verses of the Koran. According to Mr. Nayef Abu Rajab, from the Ministry of Awqaf, Muslim ulamas and preachers will give lectures and hold seminars during this holy month.

Syria 'bars' PLO leaders

(Continued from page 1)

The paper quoted a Foreign Ministry official in Cairo as blaming Syria for the PNC's anti-Egyptian resolution which made relations with Cairo dependent on its scrapping the treaty with Israel.

Taha Al Farnawani, who led an Egyptian delegation to the PNC, told the paper that Mr. Arafat justified the move by conceding that he came under pressure.

Mr. Farnawani was quoted as saying that President Assad warned Palestinian radicals who attended the conference that if they did not condemn Egypt or threaten to break off relations with it they would not be allowed to return to Syria.

Saudis said angry

Saudi Arabia also was reported to be angry because the Palestinian Communist Party was admitted to the PLO's ruling Executive Committee for the first time.

An Arab source close to Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, speaking to AP on condition of anonymity, said: "There are no words to describe the extent of the king's anger over Arafat's decision to admit the Communists to the PNC and give them a seat on the PLO's Executive Committee."

Saudi Arabia has not yet officially commented on decisions taken at the PNC.

Qadhafi 'angry'

In another development, AP reported from Damascus that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, angered by Mr. Arafat's refusal to break all links with Egypt, had ordered all Palestinian groups affiliated to the PLO chairman to

IPU delegates urge action on peace for Middle East

MANAGUA (Petra) — Jordan's delegate to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, has urged world parliaments to help Jordan achieve a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

The establishment of peace in this troubled area is the responsibility of the international community, particularly parliaments which could actively contribute towards the fulfilment of that goal, member of the Upper House of Parliament Walid Salah said in his address to the meeting.

Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein, is a country of peace and the King has been making relentless efforts towards the attainment of a lasting settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict, to end the Gulf war and to restore stability, security and peace in Lebanon, Mr. Salah said.

He noted that Jordan has been pursuing this endeavour at all levels and in various parts of the world.

Most countries of the world, especially peace-loving nations, are now convinced that a lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be achieved except through an international conference with the participation of all concerned parties and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, Mr. Salah said.

He said that parliaments of the world could create a favourable international atmosphere which could exercise pressure on Israel to force the Jewish state to abandon its intransigence and comply to the international will.

Mr. Salah said that the world community ought to help implement Security Council resolutions which call for an unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab territories.

Prince Hassan receives Ramadan good wishes from Christian bishops

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in the Royal Court Wednesday morning bishops of the Christian community in the Kingdom. The bishops conveyed to Prince Hassan good wishes on the occasion of the start of the holy month of Ramadan and expressed wishes of continued good health for His Majesty King Hussein and the Crown Prince.

The bishops also voiced appreciation to Prince Hassan for delegating Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid to attend the Easter celebrations held in churches in Jordan on April 19.

Prince Ra'd attended mass at the Roman Catholic Church on Jabal Luweibdeh and conveyed Prince Hassan's greetings and good wishes to the Christian community in Jordan.

Prince Hassan also sent greetings to the Christian community in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and said in a statement that the occasion demonstrates the strong ties of unity and brotherhood among the citizens of the Kingdom on both banks of the Jordan River at a time when the holy places are being exposed to further threats and arbitrary actions.

Spain, Jordan hold talks on West Bank development

AMMAN (Petra) — The subject of marketing agricultural products from the Israeli-held Arab territories was discussed here Wednesday by Mr. Andres Collado, director of the Near East and North African department at the Spanish Foreign Ministry, and Dr. Ahmad Qatani, under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

They studied means through which the European Community (EC) can help in marketing the products in its member nations and Spain's support for Jordan-sponsored economic and social development plan for the occupied Arab territory.

Hamzeh opens health centre in Abu Alanda

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh Wednesday opened a health centre in Abu Alanda, south of Amman, and inspected the services to be offered to the local community. The centre offers primary health care and mother and child services to the people of Abu Alanda and its neighbouring regions. Nearly 20,000 people in Abu Alanda, the nearby industrial zone and those living in the villages of Al Abed and Al Rujeib are to benefit from the new services at the centre.

In a statement at the inaugural ceremony, the minister said that the Health Ministry strives to improve and to generalise health services to the largest sector of the population. The Health Ministry plans to set up eight health centres in the Greater Amman area and has already announced tenders for building some of these centres, the minister continued.

He said that a tender will be floated soon for setting up the remainder of health centres similar in type to that at Abu Alanda. The inauguration ceremony was attended by the director of health in the Amman region, senior officials and representatives of the local community.

Later, Dr. Hamzeh inspected work in a building which will house the centre on a permanent basis.

Canadian education council chief discusses cooperation with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, president of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) conferred here Wednesday with Dr. Bud Hall, secretary general of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), and briefed him on the QASWF's activities, services and programmes.

Dr. Hall explained the activities of the ICAE which are being carried out in more than 180 countries around the world. He said that the ICAE carries out a leading role in the development of women's abilities and will undertake such an endeavour in Jordan in cooperation with the QASWF. The ICAE he said will be exchanging experts with the QASWF on social activities and the raising of Jordanian women's social status and promoting educational for Jordanian women.

Dr. Abdul Wahed Yusuf, assistant director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in Amman and Mrs. Abila Bader from the Ministry of Education attended the meeting. Dr. Hall explained the activities of the Canada-based ICAE at a meeting with Minister of

Education Thouqan Al Hindawi. He said that the ICAE offers good services in the effort for providing education to illiterate people and for promoting social sectors in various countries of the world in the hope of promoting the cause of peace. The ICAE provides training for women and tries to eradicate illiteracy as a first step to achieve social justice among nations, Dr. Hall said.

Mr. Hindawi discussed with Dr. Bud Hall areas for cooperation between the Ministry of Education in Jordan and the ICAE, in particular carrying out literacy programmes and holding lectures, training courses and seminars. The minister briefed Dr. Hall on the development of education in Jordan in schools and literacy centres.

The ministry has been supervising programmes for eradicating illiteracy in the Kingdom since 1968 and has been continually developing its programmes for adult education through evening classes, the minister explained. He said that the Ministry of Education holds training courses for staff involved in providing education at literacy and adult education centres. Jordan now

has 713 adult education centres, providing training to 12,097 male and female illiterate people, the minister said. He added that it is estimated that 28 per cent of the total population in Jordan is still illiterate.

Dr. Hall later met with Dr. Radi Al Waqfi, secretary general of the Ministry of Education, with whom he discussed cooperation between the ministry and ICAE in adult education. Senior ministry officials attended the meetings.

At the meeting held at the UNESCO regional office in Amman, Dr. Hall outlined the ICAE's programmes around the world and said his visit to Jordan was an exploratory one aimed at familiarising himself with the development of adult education and the work of literacy centres. Attending the meeting were representatives of the University of Jordan, the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the Jordan Company for Television, Radio and Cinema Production, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the General Union of Voluntary Societies.

Survey says medicine law not well enforced

Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A government ban on selling certain medications without prescription has gone unheeded by many pharmacists here, according to a survey conducted by the Jordan Times.

A limited survey of 15 randomly-selected pharmacies in the Amman area and interviews with several doctors and citizens suggest that the enforcement of the law introduced last September has been lax.

A majority of 12 of the 15 surveyed pharmacies did not comply with the law — specifically concerning the sale of antibiotics.

While the uncontrolled use of narcotics could cause addiction and psychological problems, the overuse of antibiotics is said by doctors to cause many health complications that could otherwise be easily avoided.

This lax enforcement suggested by the survey could be attributed to three main factors: the lack of a proper system of checking by Ministry of Health inspection personnel, the irresponsible behaviour of non-complying pharmacists, and the failure of citizens to report violators among pharmacists.

"It is very easy to get prescription medicine without a prescription from pharmacies," one doctor told the Jordan Times. He accused some pharmacists, as well as some physicians of "dangerously irresponsible behaviour."

Citing financial gains, he blamed doctors for freely giving prescriptions for narcotics and antibiotics "whether they (patients) needed them or not."

According to this physician who asked not to be identified by

name, antibiotics are being bought by people "not only without having prescriptions, but without even seeing a doctor. It has become a sort of habit," he added.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh told the Jordan Times in a recent interview that violators of the ministry law would be subject to a prison term or would be referred to a disciplinary council for action against them. Dr. Hamzeh said pharmacists who do not comply could have their licences revoked.

"It's a racket... the margin of profit is unreal," Dr. Hamzeh said, referring to the haphazard use of antibiotics to make profit. "This is very unhealthy... not to mention immoral," he said. The minister urged citizens to act more responsibly and report to health departments on any violation by pharmacists.

Harmful effects of abuse

Antibiotics are used to treat bacterial infections and not viral infections. But, antibiotics are often randomly dispensed in both cases, according to some physicians.

They say that the abuse of antibiotics could result in the body building up immunities, so that the antibiotics would be useless for fighting infections.

Dr. Staffan Janson, director of Rada Barnen, the Swedish Save the Children, told the Jordan Times that in most cases, there was no need for antibiotics. "Most of us get viral infections that have a course of three to four days. They are self-limiting and don't need antibiotics," he said.

Dr. Janson added that "sometimes, you start with a viral infection that opens the way for a bacterial infection. Sometimes

one gets bacterial infection from the start. In these two cases," he explained, "you need antibiotics."

Dr. Janson, a paediatrician and specialist in preventive health care, believes that most doctors know when antibiotics should be given and when they shouldn't be. However, "the doctor often feels he has to give his patient something to please the patient."

"What happens is that their common cold goes two days later and the patient thinks the antibiotic did it. He insists the next time to get the same medication," Dr. Janson said.

"According to him, the more antibiotics one takes, the more the body builds up resistance. After a number of years of taking too many antibiotics, a broad spectrum of antibiotics would become ineffective," Dr. Janson explained.

According to some physicians, in cases when people stop taking antibiotics after three to four days, thinking they are cured, they leave a more resistant strain of bacteria in their bodies. Furthermore, they say, when one uses antibiotics, some bacteria that is killed is useful for the body.

Offering advice to the public, Dr. Janson, who is also a consultant in cardiology, said: "If you develop a fever but you can still eat and drink and function, don't take any medication. It will most likely be over in three to four days. But when you get a severe pain in the throat or other symptoms such as aches in the ear, it may be bacteria; then, you should stay calm at home and have hot drinks with honey. Avoid medicine for as long as possible."

Better enforcement needed

Stimulants for psychological

treatments and drugs for heart diseases and similar ailments are included on the list of medicines requiring a prescription according to the Health Ministry law.

The ministry has a team of inspectors who are supposed to check whether pharmacists are complying with the law. The ministry, according to Dr. Hamzeh, relies mostly on reports from the public on violations by pharmacists. According to the ministry, there is very little complaining done by citizens.

"They are not doing their job," one doctor said about the ministry's efforts. "They should agree on strict measures and regulations."

The doctor proposed adopting new methods of checking on pharmacies, such as those applied in the United States under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations. Under these laws, physicians and pharmacists keep records of prescriptions, mentioning the name of the doctor giving the prescription, the patient's name and the date. This would allow health inspectors to compare medicine stocks in each pharmacy with records of prescriptions. Inspectors would then know whether pharmacists were selling medicine without prescription; this would of course not apply to over-the-counter medicine.

"A circular to pharmacists on prescription medication is simply not enough," the doctor who asked not to be identified said. Several doctors and citizens interviewed by the Jordan Times said they did not know whether the ministry's measures were law "or just recommendation."

To date, no pharmacist is known to have been charged with selling prescription medicine with a prescription.

First bone-marrow transplant patient recovering, faces more treatments

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Wearing a green hospital gown, and a big smile on his face, Ali Harb, who underwent the first-ever bone-marrow transplant in Jordan, sat on his bed Wednesday two days after the surgery, saying he felt very good.

Hematologist Dr. Abdullatif Owaidi Al Abadi, who headed a team of eight doctors during the transplant, said that Mr. Harb "is in an excellent condition. He has no fever and will be eating a normal diet in seven days from now."

"If no complications arise, he will be discharged from the hospital after three weeks," said Dr. Abadi, who headed a team of surgeons during the almost two-and-a-half hour transplant.

Mr. Harb, a 26-year-old instructor at the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) centre in Zarqa, said his faith in God and in the capabilities of the doctor (Dr. Abadi), who has been treating the young man for the past four years, made him decide to have the risky operation. The success rate of bone-marrow transplants world-wide are estimated to be between 45 and 75 per cent.

The surgery, performed at the University of Jordan Hospital, was the first-ever recorded bone-marrow transplant in Jordan.

The transplant was preceded by 10-days of preparations and tests, during which the patient was given chemical treatment, antibiotics, and the necessary nourishment through tubes.

After these tests proved positive, doctors decided to go ahead with the transplant which involved taking bone-marrow from Mr. Harb's iliac bone — one of the three pelvic bones — and feeding it intravenously back into him, after it was purified and chemically processed.

Mr. Harb, suffers from Hodgkin's disease, a neoplastic disease that is characterised by progressive enlargement of lymph nodes, spleen and liver through progressive anemia. His doctors gave him no more than six weeks to live had he not undergone the operation.

Although Dr. Abadi cautioned that it was premature to judge the transplants' final success rate, he told the Jordan Times that if Mr. Harb's recuperation continued at its present rate, he would be discharged from hospital in three weeks. Unlike the majority of similar surgeries, the bright side of bone-marrow transplants are that if the surgery succeeds, it guarantees a life-time cure, Dr. Abadi stressed.

In the meantime, Mr. Harb will remain under close medical supervision. He is scheduled to have his first blood transfusion in the coming three days (during which he'll be given between two to three units of specially processed blood). He will require almost seven units of blood before he recovers, and his immune

system functions well enough, according to Dr. Abadi.

According to reports on similar operations performed worldwide, post-operation care given to bone-marrow transplant patients is the main and decisive factor for the surgery's success.

They cited mouth infections, stomach and intestinal ulcers, external and internal bleeding and the body's rejection of transplanted bone-marrow as major problems which might follow such operations.


Therefore, "utmost care has to be given to Ali during the period of recovery, which includes giving him medications and blood transfusions" to ensure the operation's final success, Dr. Abadi said.

Dr. Abadi would not disclose an estimate of the operation's cost, but said that "it was very expensive surgery due to all the technical and chemical treatment involved in it." He did say that similar transplants cost from \$60,000 to \$100,000 in the U.S., and from \$30,000 to \$45,000 in Europe.

Bone-marrow transplants are classified into three types: the auto-transplant, in the case of Mr. Harb, the allogenic transplant, in which the bone-marrow donor is a brother or a sister of the patient, and the fetal liver transplant, in which the liver of an aborted fetus is taken, chemically processed and transplanted.

Captagon trafficker sentenced to 7 years

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Mahmoud Mohammad Ali Hosni to seven years imprisonment and fined him JD 500 for trafficking drugs (Captagon pills). The general military governor endorsed the sentence.



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Khomeini in hot water

THE late Shah of Iran was a strategic ally of the U.S., who arrogated to himself the role of gendarme in the Gulf. He strongly opposed the interference of any external powers, including the superpowers, in the security of the Gulf region, after the British relinquished responsibility in 1971. In part, recognising the emergence of political forces in the region and, in part, unable to sense their direction and extent, the U.S. apparently decided to keep a low profile. It was then caught off guard by the revolutionary outbreak of Islamic fundamentalism that ousted the Shah in 1979.

However, in the following power struggle, revolutionaries were ousted down by religious fundamentalists who ultimately emerged at the reins of government. The ayatollahs and their coterie tore apart the socio-economic fabric of Iran, and also the regional security scaffolding erected by the Shah in the wake of Britain's withdrawal from the Gulf.

The Khomeini regime basked in the euphoria of the overthrow of the Shah, but was unable to continue his subtle diplomacy. Not long after the overthrow, the country was plunged into a war with its neighbour, Iraq. It stubbornly persists in continuing the six and a half year-old war that has already killed hundreds of thousands of innocent men, women and children and destroyed property worth billions of dollars.

Now Khomeini appears to be in a desperate dilemma. On the one hand, he is reluctant to unilaterally stop the war for fear that he would be overthrown if peace returned to Iran through a negotiated settlement with Iraq. How could the people of Iran forget the infamous and murderous policies that wreaked untold human sufferings and deprivations, for no useful purpose? On the other hand, he cannot prevent the superpowers from sneaking into the Gulf to defend international shipping against Iranian attacks.

Caught between the devil and the deep blue sea, Iran may be sorely tempted to commit some desperate action designed to escalate the conflict. As Nero enjoyed playing his fiddle while Rome burned, the grand old ayatollah may yet enjoy presiding over a potential tragedy for Iran, the cutting off of the oil lanes in a desperate attempt to bring down the present Iraqi regime as a precondition of ending the war. Should Iran attempt such reckless action, the superpowers will need shrewd political judgement to preempt such Iranian action without causing a widening of the conflict, and a far greater catastrophe.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Unjustified U.S. move

WE find no justification for Washington's decision to bar Austrian President Kurt Waldheim from entering the United States. Washington has taken an additional step to that of the world Zionist movement which merely levelled harmful accusations against the Austrian leader for his activities during the Second World War. Washington's move entails accusations and practical action as well against Dr. Waldheim.

The whole world realises that the Zionist accusations against Waldheim are totally baseless, but the Americans insist on displaying their blind bias towards Israel and the Zionist movement. It is also known to all that it is the United States that is continuing to supply arms to the fascist rulers of the Third World and also opens its doors wide for them if and when they are kicked out of their countries. Thus, the U.S. decision against Waldheim reaffirms Washington's total commitment to the Zionist movement's goals and Israel's objectives.

Dr. Waldheim, who served as secretary general of the United Nations, enjoys the respect of the whole world; and the Austrian people have elected him as president in appreciation of his endeavours and his honourable record. Those who support Waldheim are the peace-loving peoples of the world who today witness justice and peace being grossly violated by the enemies of people and the enemies of real peace.

Al Dustour: Joint efforts for one goal

AT a meeting in Amman between Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Tunisian Foreign Minister Al Hadi Al Mabrouk discussion turned to the situation in the Middle East, and Mr. Rifai emphasised Jordan's clear position that no peace can be made outside the framework of the proposed international conference. This position was echoed by the joint Jordanian-Tunisian statement that followed Mr. Mabrouk's visit to Jordan. Both countries expressed their adherence to the idea of the international conference which they described as a practical tool for establishing a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The joint statement said that such a conference would be in line with Arab resolutions taken at various summit meetings, specially the Fez Arab summit. The idea of holding this conference has been gaining momentum all the time, with the only dissenting parties being Israel and the United States. This endorsement of the proposed conference was manifest in resolutions adopted by the Islamic conference in Kuwait, and the European Community in Brussels. The almost overwhelming support for the conference is to be regarded as a victory for Jordan's diplomacy. But, what is needed now is a concerted effort involving all Arab countries for the sake of achieving the aspired goal of lasting peace.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran committing suicide

IRAN'S new offensive on Iraq in the northern sector of the battlefield lasted only a few hours at the end of which the enemy was dealt a crushing blow by the Iraqi forces. Yesterday's new aggression ended like all other acts of Iranian aggression on Iraq with total failure and more heavy losses in men and material. The Iraqis seem to have mastered the skill of thwarting all Iranian offensives and to nip them in the bud and turn the battlefield into a massive graveyard for the invading Iranian troops.

The whole front is being strengthened for the sake of aborting any Iranian attack or invasion of Iraqi territory; and the Iraqis seem to have only one objective to achieve: committing suicide. For Iraq, it is clear that its forces hold the initiative and completely control the situation and can, if they so desire, launch an offensive into Iranian territory, but Baghdad has more interest in achieving a lasting peace and ending the war. Perhaps this can be achieved once the Iranian leaders become convinced that their offensives are bound to bring more tragedies and more destruction to themselves and to their country.

Unacceptable faces of Britain's American friends

By Michael Adams

THERE is a lot of loose talk these days about "anti-Americanism" and the harm it is doing to the "special relationship" between Britain and the United States. I should like to contribute to the debate from the standpoint of a convinced "pro-American" who feels deeply critical of almost every aspect of current American foreign policy and of the attitude of mind in Washington of which that policy is an expression.

I say in Washington, because I do not believe that either the policies of the Reagan administration, or the attitudes of those who shape them, are truly representative of popular thinking in the American heartland. And I have used all those inverted commas to suggest that the phrases which they enclose are clichés which have little to do with the realities of life in contemporary America.

My own association with the Americans goes back more than 30 years. As a young man I had the enormously enjoyable experience of spending a year exploring the United States with a travelling fellowship.

My overriding impression then,

confirmed in many subsequent visits (two of them in the last four months), was of a huge and disparate country, in many parts of which Washington seemed almost as far distant as London. To the inhabitants of Idaho or Nebraska or Arkansas, local issues far outweighed those which preoccupied the administration two or three thousand miles away in Washington and about which local opinion was generally both ignorant and unconcerned.

Of course there were and are exceptions: communities in the heartland where the influence of an exceptionally good newspaper or a broadminded congressman have created a closer awareness of the outside world and its problems. But these are rare, perhaps rarer today than they were in the days of Truman or Eisenhower or Kennedy. The decline in the quality of American leadership is reflected in the crude simplifications which characterise the average American's view of the world today.

None of this is surprising; and if we feel critical about it we need to remind ourselves of our own prejudices and our own blind

spots. All the same, to recognise the facts may help us to adopt a more realistic attitude towards the Americans, and vice versa.

When leader-writers, and even the American ambassador in London, complain about anti-Americanism and its damaging effect on the special relationship what do they mean? That the average Englishman feels hostile to the farmer in the mid-West (who is probably of Scandinavian origin and quite unaware of any special relationship with Britain), or to the citizens of New York or Boston (who are mostly of Italian or Irish or Jewish extraction)? Surely not.

What they mean is that nowadays many Englishmen feel strongly and justifiably critical of the policies of the Reagan administration. And if we do not have the right to say so, then there is very little of value in the relationship between our two countries, whether we think of it as special or not.

If Mr. Gorbachev proves able to set the Soviet Union on a new course, there may be a brighter future for all of us; but until we

can feel more confident of his intentions, no sensible Englishman can deny the importance to us of the Atlantic alliance.

At the same time, we need to be sure that the price of the alliance is not too high — and that is where the difficulty arises for pro-Americans like myself. If loyalty to our American friends involves going along with Mr. Reagan's policies in Central America, in the Middle East and towards the whole current political and economic emancipation in the Third World, then the price becomes unacceptably high.

Nor is it only the policies of the Reagan administration which are at issue. Equally unacceptable are the methods by which they are pursued and the attitude of mind which they reflect, in a Washington where Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln would feel very ill at ease. The criminal absurdities of Iranqate provide an easy target: but it is only the most obvious one. Policies which involve defiance of the International Court of Justice, or which depend for their implementation on the use of false

documents and undercover agents from the jungle of the international arms trade, do not deserve the support of America's allies.

It is no good saying that this is none of our business. If our own Government values the relationship with Washington so highly that it is prepared to turn a blind eye to this kind of skulduggery — and even to collaborate in some of its manifestations, like the bombing of Tripoli — it puts us in the same category with the Americans in the eyes of the world. The result is not merely to make some of us feel uncomfortable; it most plainly damages our national reputation and with it our capacity to play any useful role on the international stage.

This is where the real danger exists to America's standing with its allies. If we wish, as most of us do, to maintain our close association with the United States, we have to accept the fact that what the Americans do is going to reflect upon all of us. And if we feel, as most of us do, that the policies of the Reagan administration undermine the very principles on which the Atlantic

alliance is supposed to be based, we have the right to say so.

There is nothing disloyal about doing so, nor does it constitute anti-Americanism or indicate any change in our view of the Americans as friends of long standing, whose qualities of enterprise and optimism and generosity we find as remarkable and as admirable as we have always done.

Far from being one of hostile prejudice, our attitude is one of impatience at the spectacle of a great nation whose energies are being misdirected by unscrupulous and incompetent leadership. If there is resentment, it is not directed at the American people, but at those who try to persuade us that if we want to enjoy the benefits of America's friendship, we must bury our scruples about the inadequacies of the Reagan administration.

Michael Adams, research fellow at Exeter University, is contributing editor to Middle East International. His autobiography, *The Untravelled World*, was published recently by Quartet Books. The above article is reprinted from the Guardian.

American idea of an Iranian moderate

By Scheherazade Daneshkhu

WHEN the visit to Iran of Robert McFarlane, former national security adviser to President Reagan, came to light in November 1986, the defence secretary, Caspar Weinberger, commented that he had no idea why some U.S. officials believed that moderate factions with whom the U.S. could deal, existed within Iran. Of course, McFarlane's failure to break the ice or, to "melt the frozen ocean" as Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, chose to see it, could have either vindicated or promoted Mr. Weinberger's misgivings, depending on how well disposed you are towards him. Some months ago, Rafsanjani confronted this issue by asserting that "everyone in Iran was and is moderate. It was you (the U.S.) which labelled some of us fundamentalist hardliners. We always wanted normal relations, but it was you who cut them."

Rhetoric aside, there is a serious issue here and it involves what seems to be the U.S. administration's fondness for idiosyncratic application of the English language. When Edmund Burke in a letter to the Sheriffs of Bristol wrote, "I know many have been taught to think that moderation, in a case like this, is a sort of treason," his words must have echoed in the hearts of various West Bank mayors, not to mention the families of Saeed Hammami and Issam Sartawi, the PLO officials assassinated by the Abu Nidal faction for their willingness to go some way towards recognising Israel. "Moderate" has become a dirty word in the Middle East, with fatal and tragic consequences.

When Robert McFarlane, testifying before the congressional committee said that President Reagan had authorised the "indirect delivery of small levels of arms to Iran for the purpose of strengthening elements that were against terrorism," he inadvertently highlighted the problem. The leaders he doubtless spoke to in Tehran constituted, almost by definition for the U.S., the moderates in the government — men prepared to do business with the U.S. over what must be seen now as an arms-for-hostages barter.

If the yardstick against which moderation is measured is to be the degree of willingness of those with influence to exercise that influence in the interests of the U.S., then it is small wonder that the word loses its sense of objective relativity and takes on instead partisan connotations. Clearly, if the word "moderate" is to retain its real meaning, it has to be used in a less overtly political sense and has to convey instead some of the qualities ordinarily associated with it — tolerance, balance and the like. If it is to be used in a specific context ("he is a man of moderate means" yet

the U.S., yet in no general sense of the word can they be considered as such. Rafsanjani favours stricter adherence to Islamic rules of conduct and dress than do some of his opponents, including the president, Ali Khamenei. Although Khamenei has not shown support for increased dialogue with the West, he has at least lifted the ban on the broadcast of the female voice. And Ayatollah Montazeri, Khomeini's best-designate, while having the strongest links with the World Organisation of Islamic Liberation Movements (which has ties with Hizbollah in Lebanon and the Mujahideen in Afghanistan), has also argued most consistently for an end to arbitrary power in Iran itself and for the return of exiles from abroad. Rafsanjani, on the other hand, seeks the removal of remaining liberals from the political process, especially Mehdi Bazargan, the republic's first prime minister who allowed freedom of dress and of the press.



Rafsanjani... a 'moderate'?

In the context of economic policy, the "radicals" and "conservatives" again break down differently. It is interesting to note that it was due to this debate that Rafsanjani was seen as a "radical" in the Western press before his views on superpower politics became known. Rafsanjani has pressed for the nationalisation of foreign trade, the establishment of co-operatives to regulate internal trade and the imposition of a greater degree of state planning than presently exists. These policies have met with opposition from the Majlis itself and from President Khamenei, who supports the claims of the merchant class and the private sector for less state control of the economy.

There is, therefore, no group of Iranian leaders at present who support moderate policies throughout the social, political and economic spheres. Yet, to single out the willingness to negotiate with the U.S. as a sign of moderation over, for example, greater tolerance in social affairs does betray the single-mindedness of the American world view rather clearly. It means that being a moderate, in the minds of many, becomes associated with

If the yardstick against which moderation is measured is to be the degree of willingness of those with influence to exercise that influence in the interests of the U.S., then it is small wonder that the world loses its sense of objective reality and takes on instead partisan connotations.

excessive appetite", then that context has to be stated.

Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani and his supporters, who number among them Ayatollah Khomeini's son, Ahmad, are undoubtedly the "moderates" to whom McFarlane has been referring, supporting as they do renewed relations with

selling out to the U.S. with the terrible consequences that those independently-minded individuals working towards co-operation, find themselves sharing company with the likes of the "moderates", and biting the dust as a result — Middle East International, London.



Sri Lanka talks tough but wants peace

By Jose Katigbak

COLOMBO — Despite tough talk and military strikes the Sri Lankan government has not ruled out a political settlement of the four-year Tamil separatist conflict but more bloodshed seems inevitable first.

"We have not closed the door for a peaceful political settlement," National Security Minister Lalith Athulthumudali told reporters when asked if the government was still interested in negotiations with the rebels after 126 people died in last Tuesday's car bomb massacre in Colombo.

Diplomats believe neither side is strong enough to impose a military solution and only a political solution is feasible. But with the peace process dealt a setback by the bus station blast they fear the immediate outlook is for more bloodshed.

Brushing aside rebel denials of responsibility for the bomb blast, the government mounted a five-day retaliatory offensive against guerrilla strongholds in the northern Jaffna peninsula and eastern province, and a spokesman said

more than 400 rebels were killed in the attacks.

President Junius Jayewardene warned he might extend parliament's term by referendum rather than hold a scheduled general election if the current level of separatist violence continued over the next two years.

Jayewardene's government has been attacked by Buddhist monks and militant students demanding it take tougher action against the rebels or resign.

"If terrorism is not defeated before the next general election, which is due in 1989, I may hold a referendum to extend the term of the parliament," the president told a rally in the southern city of Karadeniya last Sunday.

Stung by criticism of being "soft" on separatist senior ministers in a series of public speeches have vowed to bomb the rebels to submission.

Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa in a tough speech in parliament vowed: "We will wipe out terrorism... before seeking a political solution to the ethnic problem."

Diplomats and some senior Sri Lankan officials said the govern-

ment's "tough" pronouncements were a "grandstand gesture" to placate the majority Sinhalese, not an outright rejection of dialogue.

Government spokesman Tilak Ratnakara has described as "a setback to the peace process" reports that the south Indian Tamil Nadu state government had allocated \$3.2 million to "freedom fighters" in Sri Lanka for food, clothing and medicine.

"It is not clear if the money will be channelled to the terrorist groups but if it is we will protest strongly to the Indian government," he told Reuters.

Some diplomats said Sri Lanka's military actions against the rebels were calculated not to exceed the limit of what India in particular Tamil Nadu, was prepared to tolerate.

The Sri Lankans are worried Tamil Nadu may step up supplies of arms and ammunition to the rebels if the military situation worsens and there's no way they can plug all of the Indian Ocean to prevent the supplies from coming in," one Western military

analyst said. Tamil Nadu state is home to 50 million Tamils who have close religious and cultural links with Sri Lankan Tamils, who make up 13 per cent of the island's 16 million people.

Last week the navy said it sank a large rebel craft loaded with munitions spotted heading for Sri Lanka from southern India.

India has been mediating a peaceful solution to the conflict between the majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils in which more than 5,500 people have been killed in the past four years, but the peace negotiations have been stalled in the last few months over the degree of autonomy to be given to the rebels, who are demanding an independent homeland.

Athulthumudali said India had an important role to play in a negotiated settlement and he hoped New Delhi would be able to persuade the rebels to be less intransigent.

"We have to ensure that Sri Lanka stays as one country but we have not closed the door for a peaceful political settlement," he added.

Suharto quashes challenge to Islam in Indonesia

By Jeremy Clift

JAKARTA — President Suharto appears to have demolished any lingering chance that Islamic radicals could become a major political force in Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Suharto's ruling Golkar Party delivered a crushing blow to Indonesia's main Muslim-backed party in parliamentary elections on Thursday.

This victory came as a climax to a determined campaign by Suharto, who eradicated Communist influence when he came to power after a leftwing coup bid in 1965, to prevent Islamic fundamentalism from taking root in Indonesian politics.

Suharto's campaign involved some astute political juggling as well as tougher tactics that put dozens of militant Muslim preachers in jail.

The Golkar Party took 72 per cent of the vote in the elections, up from 64 per cent in the last polls, in 1982. For the first time, Golkar won in all of Indonesia's 27 provinces.

Support for the United Development Party (PPP), the Islamic radicals' main chance for political power, slumped to about 16 per cent from a 1982 high of 28 per cent.

More significantly, Golkar narrowly defeated the PPP in its traditional stronghold of Aceh, a staunchly Muslim province at the western tip of Sumatra, which in the early post-independence years fought a separatist war against Jakarta.

It was the first time Golkar had won in Aceh in four elections under Suharto. Provincial governor Ibrahim Hasan said Golkar's victory would help the region get more development funds from the central government.

With Golkar promoting itself as the party of economic development and opportunity, the PPP also lost votes in other areas where it used to command support, in Jakarta and on Indonesia's main island of Java.

Some of these votes went to the small Indonesian Democratic Party, which championed young people and the urban poor and which attracted support with a campaign based on memories of Indonesia's charismatic first post-independent leader, the late President Sukarno.

The official Antara news agency quoted an Islamic youth leader as saying the PPP's defeat should not be interpreted as a defeat for Islam in Indonesia.

In a country that is 87 per cent Muslim, organised Islam represents the only serious challenge to

Suharto. Indonesian political analysts and western diplomats said Suharto's military-backed government had been on to cripple the PPP as a possible vehicle for Islamic discontent.

The PPP was weakened by internal splits and government legislation passed in 1985 that banned the use of religion in politics.

It was no longer allowed to present itself as an Islamic party and was forced to drop its powerful symbol of the Holy Kabah shrine in Mecca, adopting instead a golden star.

After Muslim riots in the port district of Jakarta in 1984 in which at least 30 people died, and a series of bomb attacks in the capital, the government passed legislation requiring all groups to accept the state ideology, known as Pancasila.

Pancasila is an amalgam of nationalism, religion, consensus democracy and ideals of social justice. The main effect of its introduction was to prevent the creation of an Islamic state in Indonesia, at a time of worldwide concern about Muslim fundamentalism.

Suharto cracked down on alleged Muslim extremists through a series of subversion

trials. Former Cabinet Minister Mohammad Sanusi was sentenced to 20 years in jail last September on charges of planning to blow up Suharto and start an Islamic revolution.

The PPP's election campaign was crippled when the conservative Council of Islamic Teachers known as Nahdlatul Ulama withdrew its support because of growing disenchantment with party chairman John Naro.

Nahdlatul Ulama wields far-reaching influence, especially in the rural interior of Java.

To several Indonesian politicians and outside analysts, the election marked an important step towards increasing secularisation across the giant archipelago.

"Slowly but steadily we are succeeding in creating a more rational political system," said Religious Affairs Minister Munawir Sadzali. "Politics has been made more rational and less emotional."

Despite this victory over Islamic radicals, key issues raised during the election campaign remain to be tackled, demands for political freedom, more equal distribution of wealth and economic opportunities, less control of student politics and the need to restrict big business monopolies.

Philippines Muslims — strangers in their own land

By Greg Hutchinson
Reuters

MANILA — The Philippines' five million Muslims say they feel they are strangers in a land they consider their own.

Their 15-year-old push for recognition and autonomy has left an estimated 50,000 dead so far. Now, as Muslim leaders say they are pessimistic about the prospects of a negotiated settlement, they have threatened to wage more war against Manila from strongholds in the south.

Once the dominant people and culture of the country's southern islands, the Muslims have been swamped by an influx of Roman Catholic northerners.

Muslims now constitute less than a third of the 15 million inhabitants of Mindanao, Palawan and the Sulu Islands — lands the Muslim Moro people consider theirs and have fought long and bitterly to control.

Neither the Muslims nor the government in Manila in the north wants a resumption of the secessionist war in which tens of thousands — civilians, Muslim rebels and soldiers — were killed in the 1970s at the height of the violence.

But Muslim leaders have said they will fight again if their demands are not satisfied, and Manila is taking the threat seriously.

Filipino Muslims regard themselves as proud heirs to the Malay world's rich traditions of Batik painting and Islamic statehood.

But after 400 years of colonial domination by the Spanish was followed by 50 years of U.S. rule, the Muslims found themselves governed by northern Filipinos without the same level of cultural and political sophistication, historians say.

The Muslim peoples of the Philippines take considerable pride in the fact that they have an older history as an identifiable community than any other Filipino peoples, wrote historian Peter Gordon Gowing in Muslim Filipinos.

Attempts at integration of the proud Muslim minority with the northerners by successive colonial and post-independence Manila governments failed as the two groups — originally of common Malay stock — grew to know each other less.

The deposed government of Ferdinand Marcos, whose troops fought the Muslims in the bitter battles of the last decade, also struggled with the problem.

In 1976 in Tripoli, Libya, he signed over partial autonomy in 10 provinces where the Muslims, or Moros as they now prefer to be called, were mostly in the majority.

Peace, however, proved elusive as the rebel Moro National Liberation Front, the biggest of several private Muslim armies, charged Marcos with treachery. It accused Marcos of backing away from the Tripoli agreement and of conniving to split the Muslim guerrilla movement.



Muslim fighters in southern Philippines. Seated second from left is Ganan-Nam Pelanking, leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, one of several rebel groups.

With Corazon Aquino replacing Marcos as president in February, 1986, the Muslims called off their sputtering guerrilla war.

In September, a cessation of hostilities agreement was struck with the Manila government after Aquino broke protocol and flew to the south for one-on-one talks with the front's leader, Nur Misuari.

Misuari, 47, a former political-science lecturer, was credited with holding back up to 30,000 heavily armed guerrillas at his command when talks with Manila government on a new autonomy deal faltered earlier this year.

The front accused the government of backsliding on a January 1987 agreement it said promised autonomy to 23 southern provinces — a third of the country.

The government rejected the rebels' interpretation and offered, instead, eventual fuller autonomy in the 10 provinces Marcos made nominally autonomous. In return, it insisted the Muslims agree to put the issue to a local vote.

The front rejected the idea of a plebiscite, which the government said was constitutionally unavoidable.

The Muslims called the vote

concept "artificial" and pleaded historic rule in the 10 provinces, which cover western and central Mindanao — the Philippines' second largest island after Luzon — and strings of adjacent smaller islands.

"Votes are often tampered with in the present system," Misuari has said. "A simple 'yes' or 'no' vote has often prevented leadership from really listening to what people are thinking."

Instead, Misuari advocated "consulting" directly with the people. After Aquino's talks with Misuari, the rebel leader, fitted out in battle fatigues, toured Min-

danao to sound out supporters. "In direct consultations like we are holding, everyone, even the illiterate, can have their say," Misuari has said.

The government's chief negotiator with the front, Emmanuel Pelaez, said: "At the end of the process there must be a plebiscite. How else does democracy work?"

The cultural clash between north and south remains. Misuari has said Manila's insistence on a "Western-style" plebiscite shows an arrogant disregard for the Malay political traditions of the south that the northerners discarded in their eagerness to embrace the political practices of the Americans.

The country's constitution, ratified at polls in February, limits autonomy for the south to "Muslim Mindanao" — a concept lawyers say excludes probably two-thirds of the 23 provinces that the government in January hinted might become autonomous.

"We think the government is stalling — waiting for the May 11 congressional elections when they can say: 'Our hands are tied. The congress must decide on your demands,'" the front's chief peace negotiator, Habib Hashim, told Reuters.

The demands are likely to fall on deaf ears in a congress representing the Philippines' overwhelmingly Catholic population of 58 million, analysts say.

Randa Habib's

Scholarships for the rich?

THE increasing number of rich and well-to-do people trying to secure scholarships for their children continues to amaze me. In recent days I came across many of them approaching officials to enlist support for their drive to ensure a scholarship for their son or daughter after tawjili.

These parents appear to be overlooking the fact that government scholarships were created with the less-fortunate but bright students in mind. At the same time, instances of these scholarships going to sons and daughters of people with "proper connections" are more than cases where deserving students are given the chance to benefit from the proffered help.

This situation leads to the fact that a smaller number of "poor students" are being able to enjoy scholarships and in these cases, this means most of the time, a whole change in their course of life, and no higher studies at all.

I propose that before any scholarship is granted a thorough check on the social situation of each applicant should be conducted. No one who is well-heeled and wealthy, who ever he is, should be granted a scholarship.

Rich people have, after all, their choices, to study abroad or to pay for their own education in Jordan.

What alternative do the poor students have? Let us not take away the meaning and the human aspect of the whole matter. After all we as taxpayers are also concerned about the scholarships as often they are covered by our own taxes. And we certainly don't want our money to cover the educational expenses of any rich child.

Thai army chief in test for survival

By Joseph de Rienzo
Reuters

BANGKOK — Thai army commander General Chavalit Yongchaiyuth has climbed on a tiger by calling for a peaceful revolution — he will have trouble either riding it or getting off without being devoured.

Rallies in Bangkok in the past week by soldiers protesting at political attacks on Chavalit from both right and left have highlighted his precarious position.

The tall, enigmatic general nicknamed "Big Tiny" has become Thailand's most controversial figure because of his calls for radical political and economic reforms.

He says he wants to revamp parliament, focus on agro-industrial development and usher in aggressive government.

He also wants to retain the monarchy and ensure that the army, traditionally a major force in politics, keeps a key role in public life to benefit the peasant masses.

The alternative, he says, is instability and renewed Communist rebellion.

Chavalit has not explained his ideas clearly. But a speech in February in which he said politicians were corrupt and not serving the public properly raised eyebrows in a country whose armed forces have staged or attempted 15 coups in the last 55 years.

Opposition politicians also fear that Chavalit and Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanonda, to whom he is close, plan to reduce the power of parliament.

They point to an upgrading of the importance of the military's National Counter-Insurgency Command (ISOC) announced by Prem and Chavalit in February. The ISOC is to become a coordinating council for government agencies.

Chavalit will not say it, but it is assumed he aspires to Thailand's political leadership.

Political scientists say that as Chavalit has been so outspoken, he must quickly explain his revolutionary ideas and win broad support for them if he is to survive as a political force.

Some military officers are suspicious of dealings he had with former Communists while researching counter-insurgency theory and tactics in the 1970s and 1980s.

Former Prime Minister Kukrit Pramoj, doyen of the conservative elite, last week attacked Chavalit with one of the deadliest weapons in Thailand's political arsenal by suggesting he held Communist views.

Noisy veterans of the fight against Communist insurgents besieged Kukrit's house on Sunday in an unusual show of rank-and-file political militancy, demanding he apologise for his remarks.

Some complained that Kukrit's dogs ate better food than they did while fighting Communist Vietnamese troops along the border between Thailand and Kampuchea.

Hundreds of officers rallied at Chavalit's house on Tuesday to demonstrate their support for him after politicians as well as former Communists such as ex-student leader Thirayuth Boonmee accused him of militaristic and dictatorial leanings.

Chavalit has responded vigorously to his critics, including Kukrit, who writes a widely read newspaper column.

"I have fought Communism and led soldiers, police, civilians and volunteers into battle with blood, flesh and lives — not with my mouth or a pen," he said.

Of his ex-Communist detractors, he said "I want to remind (them) of the situation they were once in. The people they antagonized and cursed daily — what was it these people did for them in the past?"

Chavalit and Prem were the authors of a 1980 amnesty which let thousands of defectors from the insurgent Communist Party of Thailand return to society.

The insurgency has now almost been crushed, but Chavalit acknowledges he and Prem face opposition to their hearts-and-minds policy from hardliners in the army and Thailand's political elite.

Political scientists studying Chavalit's concepts and activities say he appears to envision the most significant changes in Thailand since the replacement of absolute monarchy by Western-model parliamentary democracy in 1932.

"For the first time we have a commander in chief with ideology, commitments plans and projects," said one scholar who said Chavalit was now working hard to attract support.

Argentines send message of rejection to military

By William H. Heath
The Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Hundreds of thousands of Argentine civilians, from chilly Patagonia to the subtropical north, sent a loud, clear message to the nation's military establishment.

Singing, chanting, waving flags and banners and beating drums, they said they enjoy their newly-restored democracy and are tired of constitutional disrespect by military men who have ousted elected governments and seized power six times in the past 57 years.

At Easter Sunday mass rallies across the country, civilians denounced a military by a small band of disgruntled army officers who took over an infantry school at a base near the capital.

The anti-military theme predominated. They chanted their favourite slogans, which rhyme in Spanish, declaring: "Don't you dare, don't you dare, and if you go, we'll burn down your barracks." "They soldiers, hey soldiers, put down your mutineers," and "Hey stupid, hey stupid, take your coup and shove it."

At the largest rally, in Buenos Aires, nearly half a million people crowded the historic Plaza de Mayo facing government house, where President Raul Alfonsín, his cabinet and loyal officers sought to resolve the crisis.

They cheered when Alfonsín stepped to a balcony to announce he would go to the base to try to personally win a rebel surrender. They roared approval, embraced each other and sang the national anthem, many with tears in their eyes, when he returned to announce success.

The scene was repeated across the nation. And in the far-northern province of Salta, on the border with Bolivia, governor

Roberto Romero drew cheers when he proposed the province secede from the federal system if the mutiny led to a rupture of constitutional rule.

"A superficial view could indicate that Argentina has simply experienced one more of the many military crises it has gone through, with varying success, over the last half century," observed the conservative, independent Buenos Aires daily La Nacion on Monday.

"But a deeper look will produce another conclusion: Yesterday, the entire country showed itself and the world that it has no desire to abandon the path of law, democracy and peace," the paper said.

No one demonstrated this better than the multitude gathered in the Plaza de Mayo and in smaller squares throughout the country of 31 million inhabitants.

The rallies, in a festive mood were mainly middle-class and working-class Argentines, including many families with small children in tow, as well as casually-dressed secondary and university students and a scattering of elderly couples in their Sunday best.

They arrived singly, in small groups and in long columns accompanied by bass drum beats and disciplined by party or union organisers armed with bullhorns.

Many, like Juan Luciani, 48, pressed transistor radios to their ears to keep up with events at the army base. Almost all said they had come "to defend democracy."

"This is the first time in my life that we have had a democratic system like the one we enjoy today," Luciani said. "We must defend it and convince these people to surrender without spilling blood."

There were remarkably few incidents as traditional political riv-

al groups such as Alfonsín's radical Civic Union, the Peronists and the Movement Toward Socialism took up positions side by side.

"We're radicals," said Mrs. Josefina Crespo, a party precinct leader from suburban Belgrano. "Yes, but today we're all Argentines first," quickly added her son, Omar, an 18-year-old who used part of a garden hose to beat out a rhythm on a battered bass drum, the traditional inspirational instrument at Argentine rallies.

Despite a predominance of radical groups, it was clear that Alfonsín and his government were not popular with all those present.

"The government is to blame for all this in the first place," observed a bearded youth carrying a crimson flag of the leftist Movement Toward Socialism. "This situation won't be straightened out until the workers are in power."

"Just look at this," said Luis Cortes, 31, waving at the sea of multi-colored party banners and blue and white national flags.

"This union would have been unimaginable not many months ago," he said. "It indicates that we Argentines are losing our fear of the military along with the old idea that it's best not to get involved."

The massive demonstration of public support was described by Interior Minister Antonio Troccoli as the "central and preponderant factor" of the four-day crisis.

Perhaps even greater recognition came from Lt. Col. Aldo Rico, the leader of the 150 mutinous officers, who told a brief news conference after surrender that his men had turned off their radio and television sets to avoid being influenced by the mass public rejection of their rebellion.



Careful footwork carries hikers over Maine's Rainbow Stream, about 50 kilometres from the northern end of the Appalachian Trail, the world's longest continuously marked footpath. Campers linger at a shelter, one of a series of refuges usually spaced a day's hike apart — about 15 kilometres — along the 3,360-kilometre length of the trail. Fencing on some southern shelters provide residents from visits by curious bears, though reports of injury are rare (national geographic photo)

Self-discovery and serenity lure millions of trekkers to Appalachian Trail

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Some of the three million to four million people who annually tread the well-marked path just drop in for a while: a few hours to reach a broad-view promontory, a weekend of camping, a two-week vacation in the woods.

But others stay longer. There are those known as "2,000-milers," who walk the entire 2,100 miles over a period of several years. And then there are the hundred or so called "thru-hikers," the ones who spend one 12-month period travelling the entire length of the track they call simply the A.T. — the Appalachian Trail.

Avenue of solitude

Stretching from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mount Katahdin in Maine, crossing hills and mountains, rivers and valleys, wilderness and rural countryside, the Appalachian Trail is an avenue of solitude through the populous eastern United States. Some portion of it is within a day's drive of half the nation's population. Yet, those who hike it find it a chance to get away from civilisation and learn something about themselves.

"Most are people at some transitional point in their lives — divorce, job change, or just self-discovery," says Elmer Hall, a former Duke University chaplain who now lives within sight of the trail in North Carolina and offers shelter to long-distance hikers.

"It's a pilgrimage not unlike those made in the Middle Ages. Thru-hikers emphasise self-reliance and simplicity — basic pioneer virtues rarely practised in this country any more," Hall told Noel Grove, who writes about the Appalachian Trail in the February National Geographic.

As Grove hiked the trail, he found himself slowing down, learning to ignore deadlines and the normal habits of life as he began to appreciate the minute-to-minute enjoyment of the trail.

"High vantage points on the trail frequently draw crowds," he writes. "Everyone, it seems, wants to take in the world at a visual gulp. The trail is a wine better sipped. Godlike views are

far apart, and interest can wane if distance is the only goal."

A little more than a decade ago, it seemed as if the wine would spoil. Nearly half the trail crossed private land, and development plans threatened to sever it into separate chunks. Tract housing and new roads changed the route to change frequently.

Government buys corridor

But the federal government took action. In 1978, President Carter signed a bill authorising \$90 million to buy a corridor averaging 1,000 feet in width, leaving fewer than 225 miles to be drawn under the protection of public land.

The National Park Service today holds title to much of the trail property. But, in an unprecedented move in 1984, the Park Service's parent, the Department of the Interior, signed over responsibility for managing part of the public land to a private organisation: the Appalachian Trail Conference.

Based in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia, the conference, serves as an umbrella group for 31 clubs whose members volunteer to swing picks, move dirt and boulders, and clear away blow-down trees — all to maintain a pleasant pathway for hikers.

All this is far from the original dream of Benton MacKaye, an author, forester, philosopher, and New Deal activist who first proposed a long eastern trail in a 1921 architectural journal. MacKaye envisioned a path connecting a series of community camps for city dwellers to use for the study and appreciation of nature.

The route was not even connected until 1937, and the camps never materialised. Today a string of three-sided shelters offers marathon backpackers a dry haven in storms, and distinctive white blazes painted on rocks and trees tell hikers that they are on the world's longest continuously marked footpath.

The highest point on the trail is Clingmans Dome in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 6,643 feet high. The trail runs for 70 miles through the park and stays above 5,000 feet for nearly

half that distance. The Pennsylvania portion is rocky, made up of book-sized shards one hiker called "the devil's golf course." In Maine, hikers have to wade through rivers and, to cross Baxter Stream, use two cables, one for hands, one for feet.

Careful hikers safe

Despite the trail's difficulties, hikers who exercise caution are safe. Perhaps two dozen deaths can be tied to the trail since the first mile was cut in New York's Palisades Interstate Park in 1922. Most deaths were accidental: hikers who fell from rocky heights, succumbed to hypothermia, were struck by cars, hit by lightning, or drowned.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets on Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.6535/45	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.3333/45	Canadian dollar
	1.7985/95	West German marks
	2.0290/0300	Dutch guilders
	1.4765/75	Swiss francs
	37.30/33	Belgian francs
	5.9930/80	French francs
	1286/1287	Italian lira
	140.65/75	Japanese yen
	6.2800/50	Swedish crown
	6.7100/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.7700/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	451.90/452.40	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares continued firmer on Tuesday's bullish Confederation of British Industry survey and U.K. base lending rate cuts and were near their highs in late trading after a mid-session spell of profit-taking, dealers said.

An opening surge on Wall Street in response to the strong dollar was welcomed by investors here but gave little support to a market already strongly underpinned by domestic factors.

The 1030 GMT Wednesday publication of Britain's March retail sales figures brought prices from their morning highs but confidence quickly returned and by 1400 GMT, the FTSE 100 index had recovered its balance to stand 17.6 higher at 2,099.7.

Tuesday's record first quarter results from ICI were followed by the company's annual general meeting Wednesday in which new chairman Denis Henderson said the results indicated the progress being made by ICI. The shares were up 25p to 1.347 Wednesday, making a two-day rise of around 51p.

ICI's results were doing much to keep prices moving ahead while gains of up to one full point in government bonds were underpinning the advance, dealers said.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Get out today and let others know of your capabilities. Be your most charming self and look for new ideas to expand yourself. The future brings prosperity.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) It's a fine day for attaining just about everything you have in mind, provided you are sure of yourself.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Think about the luxuries you would like to have and see if you can't get them at a bargain.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be with charming friends whether male or female and do whatever will insure their friendship.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Your prestige can soar by wise activities in the world. Bigwigs appreciate you more now.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Find new outlets through which you can advance. A trip can be planned that will bring you good results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) More thought for your mate can bring fine rewards since this person is hungry for affection now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Deal with prominent people in the business world and get good results. Tell associates how much you like them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) It's a good day to be more efficient at whatever activities you are working on and make your future brighter.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Seek out new outlets that can bring you more happiness. Get closer to the one you love.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Invite new contacts into your home who can give you good ideas. Make sure all is in order there.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Add a note of politeness in your correspondence that will be appreciated and bring good results.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study how to add to the value of your property. Set up a better budget so you can enjoy your social life more.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will be quite attractive and will want to meet as many interesting and important persons as possible. A good education slanted along the lines of entertainment, designing, investments and the like is fine here. This child will become very wealthy.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, MAY 1, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today brings a sudden desire to upset what is working. Avoid making waves since there are some unfinished tasks of importance that will unsettle your arrangements.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) An unexpected missive from a distance could deter some course of action you are working on.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study that monetary matter will. An up-to-date expert may give suggestions that will not fit your set-up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are excited about riding yourself of a present situation. Perseverance can work wonders now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You want to run away from some task that is boring you, but don't. Show your mate your true devotion.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Some desire that impels you could be more expensive than you can afford. Get your affairs in better order instead.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Do what your family desires of you and gain their respect. Take it easy tonight and rest up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You feel that by going off on a trip you will have greater happiness, but this could only bring depression.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't try to renege on a promise you've made. Listening to what your mate suggests is wise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Try to agree with partners and then they go along with your ideas. Show your true intelligence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You are restless because it is the end of the work week, but tone down and do your job conscientiously.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Although you want to have a good time, this doesn't seem to work out. Be patient with your mate.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't try to make any changes in your duties at home. Be happy with the work you get done today.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he, or she, will have all sorts of fine ideas and ambitions during childhood, so encourage your precocious child to express them. This one will love to study and upon reaching adulthood will have decided on the life's work that can bring the greatest happiness.

Potential Fed action steadies dollar

LONDON (R) — The beleaguered dollar steadied on European foreign exchanges Wednesday after signs that the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) might defend it with higher interest rates.

But dealers said that despite possible U.S. central bank action the outlook for the dollar remained uncertain and players were essentially pessimistic due to the huge U.S. trade deficit and the row it has ignited between the United States and Japan.

The prices of gold and silver were virtually unchanged and lacked direction in key European trading centres while European stock markets opened firmly. Tokyo markets were closed Wednesday for a holiday celebrating Emperor Hirohito's birthday.

The weak dollar is creating tension in the world economy and its fall may soon force the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to raise oil prices, which are quoted in dollars.

Executives for U.S. oil companies said in a Renter survey in Houston that the weakness in the U.S. currency is making OPEC's current \$18 a barrel oil price difficult to sustain.

The dollar opened in London Wednesday at 1.7975 West German marks, up from 1.7955 at Tuesday's close, then moved past the 1.80 level to 1.8005 in early trading. It then fell back to opening levels by midday.

The U.S. Commerce Department releases the March index of leading indicators on Thursday, but dealers said the figures were not expected to have much impact on trading unless they diverged considerably from forecasts.

Gold, a traditional haven for investors in time of dollar nervousness, drifted after surging to around \$475 an ounce on Monday. It was fixed Wednesday morning at \$451.75 in London.

The dollar steadied after the U.S. central bank, the Federal Reserve, failed to add reserves to the money market this week despite a rise in the federal funds rate, a key floating interest rate.

Normally when such rates rise the Fed will inject money into the system to send them back down. U.S. bond traders said the higher market rate could be a sign the Fed was preparing to increase its discount rate, the rate it charges on loans to member

banks. It is now 5.5 per cent.

Also considered likely is a boost in the prime lending rate by major U.S. banks. The prime, the traditional benchmark for loans to a bank's best customers, is now at 7.75 per cent.

Dealers in Zurich said there was money market speculation that West Germany and Japan might also reduce their interest rates.

Dealers in Paris said further dollar falls were unlikely this week as operators were reluctant to sell it ahead of Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's visit to Washington.

IMF chief calls for dollar stability

Meanwhile Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said Tuesday that the dollar and other major currencies should be stabilised around current levels to promote world economic growth.

He also said that the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrialised nations must show progress on their agreement to reduce current trade imbalances in continuing world growth.

Speaking with reporters Mr. Camdessus said that the strategy adopted last January by the seven industrial countries to stabilise currencies around current levels was "a reasonable one."

But he added: "We need to deliver very soon the strategy adopted by the G-7 countries."

The G-7 nations have agreed to work toward stopping the dollar's 20-month decline while countries with large trade surpluses, such as West Germany and Japan, increase their domestic growth to absorb more imported goods.

The G-7 comprises Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Canada, the United States and Japan.

Mr. Camdessus said a further decline of the dollar had consequences for economic activity, prices and interest rates.

British interest rates drop below 10%

LONDON (R) — Banks Tuesday announced cuts of half a percentage point, to 9.5 per cent, in key British interest rates, the first time these have gone into single figures for more than two years.

The stock market liked the prospect of the boost to the economy that cheaper borrowing promises, and share values promptly rose.

A strong showing by the economy would buoy political prospects for Prime Minister Thatcher and her ruling Conservative Party, with elections likely this year and perhaps as early as June.

The Bank of England, the central bank, had been worried that the pound was appreciating too fast in the foreign exchanges, where the dollar has been tumbling.

So, Tuesday morning it signalled that it wanted above-average British interest rates to come down — which would make some sterling-denominated investments less attractive — by slicing half a percentage point off its money market intervention rates.

Barclays Bank, one of Britain's four big clearing banks, quickly responded by cutting its base

lending rate by half a percentage point to 9.5 per cent from Wednesday. Lloyds Bank later did the same.

Sterling has been riding high on favourable news about the economy and the expectation of a Thatcher election win.

The pound has been higher than the Bank of England would like against both the German mark and the dollar, trading around 2.96 marks and \$1.65.

Tuesday was the first time bank lending rates had dropped below 10 per cent since early 1985, when a run on sterling prompted their rise to double figures.

They were lowered last month from 11 to 10 per cent.

The news of the further cut Tuesday was immediately reflected on the stock exchange, where the Financial Times index of 100 leading shares in early afternoon was 33.5 points up on Monday night at 2020.1.

A spokesman for a leading building (home loan) society said the new bank rates would not mean a cut in home loan rates.

Home loans rates in Britain vary in line with prevailing bank interest rates.

The building society spokesman said that the present home loan rate had been set in anticipation of bank rates coming down to 9.5 per cent, but, if bank lending rates fell again, societies would consider a new cut in their charges.

As many Britons own their homes, that would be a big political plus for Mrs. Thatcher as she seeks an unprecedented third consecutive elected term of office.

The United States favours a round of interest rate cuts among other major trading nations, hopeful that these would stimulate their economies by making it less painful for both consumers and manufacturers to borrow money.

That would hopefully stoke up demand for goods outside the United States, making it easier for the United States to curb its own imports and narrow an unacceptably high trade deficit without tilting the rest of the world into recession.

But Japan and West Germany, rather than Britain, are the nations whose economies chiefly interest U.S. policymakers.

Global financial market functions 24 hours a day

CHICAGO (R) — The multibillion-dollar financial futures industry leaps toward continuous around-the-clock trading on Thursday when the Chicago Board of Trade (CBT) opens the first evening trading session in U.S. history.

The three-hour, four-day-a-week affair is designed to put traders on the floor in Chicago while their counterparts in the often volatile Japanese markets are starting their trading day.

It could help U.S. traders capture a share of the rapidly growing Far Eastern financial markets and give Europeans an expanded chance for involvement when their markets are closed.

The volume of the new session remains a guess at this point, but some trading houses say they are ready to increase their staffs if warranted.

The Philadelphia Board of Trade has also announced plans for an evening session in currency futures and options later this year and will closely watch what happens in Chicago.

"The U.S. cash treasury market has continued to expand in the Pacific basin," said Mr. Richard Leahy, managing director of financial futures at Salomon Brothers.

As the world moves toward 24-hour trading, it is a way for the board to overlap with the Pacific basin.

Japanese holdings of U.S. securities rose to about \$38.8 billion by the end of 1985 from about \$32.7 billion 10 years earlier, according to U.S. treasury figures.

Far Eastern investors last year purchased about a third of the long-term debt sold in U.S. treasury auctions and held about five per cent of the total long-term U.S. debt.

The CBT's evening session, in which futures on treasury bonds and notes as well as options on those two contracts will be traded, will run from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and will overlap the morning trading session in Japan.

Futures are agreements to buy or sell a commodity or financial instrument at a set price on a future date. They differ from options in that options confer the

right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell an instrument at a set price.

The CBT's night session is likely to boost volume in U.S. securities traded in the Tokyo cash market by increasing European involvement, said Mr. Michael Connelly, senior vice president at Refco Inc.

Mr. Connelly said European investors, who held about \$50 billion in U.S. securities at the end of 1985 and who now use the Tokyo market, will be more willing to trade large orders when they know risk can be offset in the Chicago futures market.

"Right now, they have to wait for London to open," he said.

Most member firms on the exchange are planning to have at least skeleton crews available for the night session.

There are signs that if night trading succeeds, finding people to staff the operations will not be a problem. One firm which advertised at local universities for business students to fill one opening on the night shift from 7 p.m. to 4 a.m. at its 24-hour desk in Chicago said it received 110 applications.

OECD study says global economic ills may take years to resolve

WASHINGTON (R) — A study by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says it may take years and major actions by the three leading Western trading partners to resolve the huge imbalances now plaguing the world economy, U.S. and Western officials said Tuesday.

The paper is designed to stimulate policy debate among senior officials of leading industrial nations preparing for next month's annual meeting of finance ministers in Paris.

The May 11-13 ministerial meeting of the 24-nation OECD has taken on added importance in view of difficulties dogging the attempts of major countries to coordinate policies.

As a result, financial markets have been unusually unstable and have focused their attention on every international meeting for clues that change is in the air.

The study concludes there needs to be much greater fiscal action by the United States, West Germany and Japan to reduce their massive trade imbalances, a U.S. official said.

"We looked at what we could do to get from here to there. We've got to continue cutting the deficit, and there needs to be domestic expansion (in West Germany and Japan)," he said.

Equally, the study suggests without major fiscal expansion by Bonn and Tokyo and a corresponding deep reduction in the U.S. budget deficit, the current trend of an upturn in U.S. interest rates and weakening dollar will go uncorrected.

Despite two meetings of the

seven leading industrial powers — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — pledges to change policy have still to be turned into action.

One official said that while the actions called for were similar to those urged by the seven, the study shows "it's going to take several years to resolve (trade imbalances)."

Separately, Western officials said they understood that U.S. overtures to Japan and West Germany to cut their short-term interest rates have been rebuffed for now.

Such rate reductions would have helped stabilise the steep decline of the dollar by widening the difference between bond yields in the United States and in Japan and West Germany.

The study strongly implies that a target of three per cent average annual growth in the industrial world, seen as needed to correct trade imbalances and keep the Third World debt crisis under control, will not be met without major action by the three leading nations, officials said.

But the study group also found that progress has been made and the seven main nations are moving in the right direction.

In Paris last February, the seven agreed that fiscal actions by the three major powers would help them stabilise currencies around levels ruling there.

The Reagan administration, this week facing the prospect of a tough trade bill aimed at curbing foreign trade surpluses, also promised to fight protectionism.

The officials said Washington

must move ahead with budget deficit cuts of around \$36 billion, a figure set as a goal by the democratic leadership of the House of Representatives.

Since the study group met, Japan has promised a supplementary budget of about \$35 billion which was warmly welcomed by Washington.

However, there is caution over its timing and content.

While no West German fiscal action is promised before January 1988, U.S. officials would welcome such a move. "We'd love them to accelerate their tax cuts," one official said.

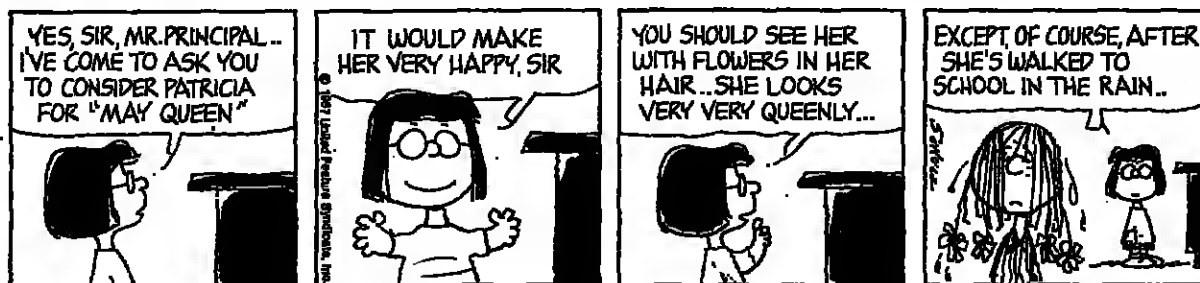
West German economic growth fell steeply in the first quarter this year, but the official said Bonn has reassured U.S. officials they expect growth to pick up again.

Meanwhile, African nations have expressed concern that plans to raise \$89 billion domestically to help regenerate their economies will fall unless the global economy changes.

Planning and economy ministers, concluding a five-day meeting here, said the main constraints on finding the money were the cost of servicing Africa's foreign debts and limited access to markets in the world's richer countries.

"Unless the present trend of a net capital outflow through external indebtedness from Africa and protectionism in the developed countries are reversed, the prospects for the domestic mobilisation of the required \$89 million ... will be dim," a communique issued at the end of the meeting said.

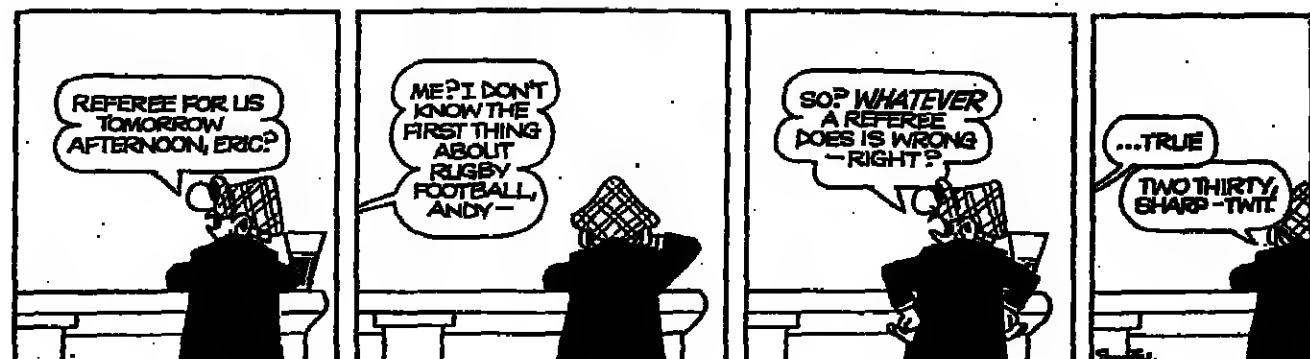
Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF, By Harris

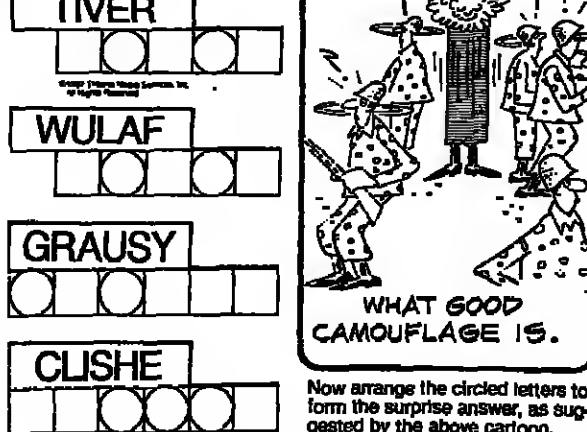


"I need an eight-letter word that means 'children,' 'headache' and 'bankrupt' don't fit."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four river words.



Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: (GLOO PILOT VERSUS UNPACK)

Answer: What the broken soft drink machine was — "CON-VOROUS"

Nicaragua blames U.S. for contra killing of American

MATAGALPA, Nicaragua (AP) — U.S.-backed rebels killed a young American engineer working on a rural development project, according to Sandinista officials who accused the White House of responsibility.

The death Tuesday of Benjamin Ernest Linder, 27, of Portland, Oregon, was the first reported killing of an American working on behalf of Nicaragua's leftist government.

Nicaraguan officials said contra rebels killed Linder and two Sandinista militiamen in an attack in the northern village of La Camaleona in Jinotega province, where the rebels have been increasingly active in recent months.

Linder was working on the construction of a small hydroelectric plant in the village 135 kilometres north east of Managua.

An American acquaintance of

Linder said he usually carried an assault rifle "for protection" when he ventured outside the village, but did not know if he had the gun with him on Tuesday. One report said he was unarmed at the time.

Sandinista authorities said Linder's body would be brought to Matagalpa, the nearest sizeable town and the capital of the province of the same name. A wake was to be held in the office of the presidential delegate in Matagalpa and many wreaths were piled in a large room waiting for Linder's coffin.

Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto sent a protest note to Secretary of State George Shultz

saying the attack was carried out "by a counterrevolutionary group under contract to the U.S. government."

Mr. D'Escoto said the attack "makes clear once again the terrorist and criminal nature of the acts promoted by the administration of the United States within its bloody official policy of state terrorism, a practice that has been condemned by the international community."

There were conflicting reports on the slaying. A government official, commenting on condition of anonymity, said six contras walked into Linder's office and shot him.

Mr. D'Escoto's note said Linder was "kidnapped and later murdered."

Eduardo Griffin Noland of the private U.S. group Witness for Peace and some Nicaraguan travellers who arrived at the

scene shortly after the raid both quoted witnesses as saying the attack occurred while Linder and six Nicaraguans were on the outskirts of town surveying a pipeline.

The travellers told reporters in Matagalpa that Linder was unarmed when a contra commando unit struck with grenades and rifle fire. They said four of the Nicaraguans with Linder were militiamen, who customarily provide security in small settlements in the war zones.

They quoted the witnesses as saying Linder was killed by a grenade and that two of the militiamen were killed after returning fire.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Sondra McCarty said she had no information on the reports of the death. "We're checking into them," she said.

Australian opposition coalition shattered

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's political opposition was shattered Wednesday in tatters after the collapse of a 40-year-old conservative coalition.

The rural-based National Party and the urban Liberals split under the pressure of right-wing Queensland Premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen's campaign to broaden the power base of the National Party.

Political analysts said the fracture, which ends months of effort by Liberal leader John Howard and national leader Ian Sinclair to heal rifts, was a fillip for the Labor Party government of Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Mr. Hawke's four-year-old administration is climbing in opinion polls, despite harsh eco-

nomie policies, as the opposition brawls diminishes the credibility of opposition leader Howard, they said.

Mr. Howard late Tuesday night ended the coalition, which had been in government for 30 of the last 40 years, after he failed to politically isolate a group of Queensland nationalists backing Mr. Bjelke-Petersen's attempt to enter the federal parliament.

Mr. Howard had insisted Mr. Sinclair exclude the 12 Queensland representatives from opposition caucus meetings.

"I have been patient, my party has been patient, as we have attempted to accommodate the shifting whims of the Queensland branch of the National Party," Mr. Howard said in a statement.

Hirohito leaves birthday lunch after feeling sick

TOKYO (R) — Emperor Hirohito left a luncheon at the imperial palace to celebrate his 86th birthday Wednesday after feeling ill, a palace spokesman said.

A doctor later said the emperor's condition was normal.

The spokesman quoted the doctor who examined the emperor as saying he appeared a little tired after he left the lunch. He examined the emperor again after he woke up from a nap and found he was in normal condition with no special treatment needed, the spokesman said.

The incident occurred as the emperor was attending a lun-

cheon this afternoon with about 440 dignitaries including Crown Prince Akihito and Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, the spokesman said.

The emperor decided not to attend a reception for foreign diplomats at the palace later in the afternoon, the spokesman said. Crown Prince Akihito will receive foreign diplomats on behalf of his father.

Earlier Wednesday, the emperor appeared three times behind bullet-proof glass on a palace veranda as 45,000 well-wishers visited the palace in central Tokyo, agency officials said.

Hess hospitalised again

WEST BERLIN (R) — Hitler's former deputy Rudolf Hess complained of feeling unwell Tuesday and was taken to hospital from the West Berlin prison where he has been held since 1947, an allied spokesman said Wednesday.

Hess, 93, who spent a week in hospital with a lung complaint in March, was taken to British military hospital Tuesday night.

No details of his condition were available but diplomatic sources described the move, three days after his 93rd birthday, as precautionary. In the past few days, the weather in Berlin has become

considerably warmer after a late spring.

An armed guard was posted Wednesday at the hospital.

Hess was jailed for life at the 1946 Nuremberg war crimes trials and moved to Spandau Prison in 1947. Since 1966 he has been the sole inmate of the prison, guarded by Soviet, U.S., French and British military.

Hess parachuted into Scotland in 1941 on what he called a peace mission. Some historians believe he was aiming for a separate peace with London to open the way for the German invasion of Russia two months later.

Alleged Irish paramilitary leader slain in Belfast

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland (AP) — Four Irish Republican Army (IRA) gunmen shot and killed an alleged paramilitary leader in a busy shopping area of Belfast's Protestant district, police said.

William Marchant, 39, was shot down in the busy Shankill Road as he stood outside a butcher's shop.

Witnesses said two women were slightly injured and the gunmen also sprayed bullets into an office next door where Protestants go for political advice.

The outlawed IRA, which is mainly Roman Catholic, said in a statement to the news media it

killed Marchant because he was second-in-command of the illegal Ulster Volunteer Force and that he was involved in the April 2 slaying of Larry Marley, a top IRA man in the city.

The Ulster Volunteer Force resists the IRA fight to end British rule in the Protestant-majority province and had said it killed Marley.

The killing was the 33rd in Northern Ireland this year. Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary, Tom King, on Tuesday visited the road near Newry on the border with the Irish Republic where Lord Justice Mairice Gibson and his wife were killed by an IRA bomb on Saturday.

Expelled Soviet diplomat flies out of New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — A Soviet diplomat ordered to leave New Zealand departed on Wednesday after denying he was Kremlin spy.

"My soul is clear before the New Zealand people, the New Zealand government and before my people," said Sergei Budnik, who was given a week to leave the country after Prime Minister David Lange labelled him a KGB officer last Friday.

Budnik, accompanied by his wife Ludmila, flew to Singapore to connect with an Aeroflot flight to Moscow.

He told reporters at Auckland International Airport he had spent five years in New Zealand as a counsellor trying to improve

relations between the two countries. He denied he was a KGB agent and described his expulsion as a political act.

Mr. Budnik said he had seen a list of KGB agents published in the New Zealand media but he was not on the Budnik on the list.

"There were many Budniks in the Soviet Union," he said.

Mr. Lange last week said Mr. Budnik had been identified as belonging to "the first chief directorate" of the KGB. Mr. Lange would not specify what activities had prompted the expulsion and he has refused to make further comment.

The last Soviet diplomat expelled by New Zealand was Ambassador Svelod Sofinski, in 1980.

Dukakis enters presidential race

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP) — Massachusetts Governor Michael S. Dukakis is joining the roster of contenders for the White House, hoping to parlay his state's economic resurgence and his familiarity with anti-war New Hampshire into the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination.

The 53-year-old Dukakis was a self-described longshot for the nomination as he embarked Wednesday on a cross-country set of announcement speeches in four cities.

He decided to begin his campaign in New Hampshire, where the first Democratic presidential primary election will be held next year, and where he is running even with front-runner Gary Hart

in the early public opinion polls. Mr. Dukakis is joining a crowded field of Democratic contenders that includes Hart, Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri and former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt. In addition, Sen. Albert Gore of Tennessee, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware and Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois are expected to seek their party's nomination, and Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton is mulling over a campaign.

Mr. Dukakis' decision to run seems in part a result of New York Governor Mario Cuomo's decision not to, as well as a widespread perception that Hart's support is not strong enough to carry him to the nomination.

Retired U.S., Soviet officers urge mutual troop pullout, SDI ban

WASHINGTON (AP) — "Intense retired U.S. and Soviet generals and admirals issued a joint statement calling for the complete withdrawal of superpower troops from foreign countries and a ban on Star Wars design and testing."

Retired Rear Adm. Gene R. La Rocque said the troop withdrawal would include U.S. forces stationed in Western Europe, South Korea, Japan and the Philippines as well as Soviet troops in Afghanistan and Eastern Europe. Adm. La Rocque signed for the nine-member U.S. delegation.

The statement does not say when or in what order Soviet and U.S. troops would be withdrawn. But it challenged the administration of President Ronald Reagan, which maintains that U.S. troops in Europe and South Korea are needed to "balance opposing Communist troops."

The Reagan administration wants to press forward with development of Strategic Defence Initiative, a space-based system intended to destroy incoming Soviet nuclear missiles. The Soviets have repeatedly tried to quash Star Wars at the negotia-

ing table. The unusual visit of seven high-ranking Soviet military officers came at the invitation of the Centre for Defence Information, a Washington-based group headed by Adm. La Rocque, who has sharply criticised the Reagan administration military buildup.

"We're not saying we should do anything in a precipitous way by taking troops out tomorrow," said Adm. La Rocque, who appeared at a news conference at Soviet embassy with five of the Soviet officers.

"But we ought to get rid of NATO and the Warsaw Pact ... it's an unnatural situation ... troops overseas have become the justification for the size of our military establishment and that's why the military fights to keep them there," he said.

He said U.S. naval bases abroad were uneeded in the age of the nuclear-powered navy. Retired Lt. Gen. M. Mischlein, who signed the statement on behalf of the Soviets, said the Soviet Union was ready to begin talks on systematically reducing U.S. and Soviet conventional forces in Europe by 25 per cent.

Filipino Communists, Muslims forge alliance

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Communist and Muslim rebels have forged an alliance in the southern Philippines, a Roman Catholic bishop who witnessed the informal union said Wednesday.

Leaders of both rebel groups in Lanao Del Norte province were to meet again to promote Christian-Muslim dialogue and "identify the real sources of people's problems" on the strife-torn island of Mindanao, Bishop Fernando Capalla said in a telephone interview.

Capalla denied that Monday's meeting between leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Communist-dominated National Democratic Front (NDF) was aimed at planning joint attacks against government forces.

He acknowledged that one of the conference's workshops put out a report saying the possibility of joint rebel attacks in the province was discussed as an alternative "if all other means are exhausted." Capalla added that position "was not the stand of everybody else."

More than 100 fighters from the Moro National Liberation Front and members of the Communist New People's Army (NPA) attended the meeting, held near Iligan city. Local reporters were invited to the meeting on condition they would not reveal the site.

Press reports from the area quoted New People's Army provincial commander Jogan Montes as telling reporters after the meeting that the possibility of

joint attacks on government forces was "inevitable because our enemy is one and the same."

The local Moro National Liberation Front Chief, identified only as Commander Solitario, said the alliance between the two groups was necessary because "we have the same enemy, we operate in the same area and we have common interests."

Both guerrilla leaders said their alliance was informal. They indicated it was forged only at the provincial level and was not necessarily binding on the two guerrilla groups' top leaders.

The Muslim guerrilla group has threatened to renew hostilities if current talks with the government on regional autonomy collapse.

Police chief killed

Meanwhile in Manila, a police chief and his driver were shot and killed Wednesday in a working-class district near the capital, officials said.

Police said Lt. Col. Carlos Palomares and his driver, patrolman Bayani Yaneza, were gunned down at about 7:30 a.m. (2330 GMT Tuesday) as they drove toward the station house in Valenzuela on the northern edge of Manila.

A police report said two women armed with M-16s blocked the road as the officer's car approached a curve. The women opened fire, along with an unidentified number of accomplices, killing the two policemen instantly, the report said.

11 hurt in Colombo blast

COLOMBO (R) — A bomb lobbed into a yard at Colombo's main magistrates court injured 11 people Wednesday but police said Tamil rebels were not responsible.

Police said the bomb was hurled from the first floor of the courthouse at Huttidippa in the heart of the Sri Lankan capital into a yard holding prisoners for trial.

Most of the injured were suspects in a murder case and police believe the bomb was thrown by members of the victim's family.

The court is about a kilometre from the central bus station where a car bomb, blamed on Tamil rebels by the government, killed 113 people last week.

Meanwhile Sri Lanka has expressed concern to New Delhi about reports that the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu will grant aid to Sri Lankan Tamils, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Acting Foreign Minister Tyrone Fernando told Reuters he had summoned Indian High Commissioner (Ambassador) Jyotindra Nath Dixit Tuesday and told him of Colombo's concern.

Tamil Nadu Food Minister S. Ramachandran told the state assembly on Monday that his government would send \$3.1 million worth of food, clothing and medicine to Tamils in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula.

COLUMNS 768

Egyptian slab stolen from museum

MANTOVA, Italy (AP) — An ancient Egyptian stone slab that was once used for magic rites was stolen from the Egyptian museum in this northern city, the Italian News Agency ANSA has reported. The agency said the theft took place on April 23 during the hours the museum is open to the public but was not disclosed until now. The 13-by-10 cm (5-by-4) oblong slab, which is made of black basalt and decorated with a god-figure sculpted in relief, is from the 4th century B.C.

Charles receives honorary doctorate

BOLOGNA, Italy (AP) — Prince Charles, draped in a ceremonial toga, received an honorary doctorate degree in philosophy Tuesday from the University of Bologna. The prince, who is on a one-week visit to Italy, was confronted by a small group of students with banners protesting "degrees awarded to the powerful." The prince received the degree on the occasion of a convention dedicated to the British Special Forces and their role in the Italian resistance during World War II.

New Zealand rejects Gandhi's gift

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — New Zealand on Wednesday said it could not accept two baby elephants as gifts from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi because they have foot-and-mouth disease. Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Veterinarian Gordon Schwarz said tests conducted on the male and female animals while in quarantine in India showed they carried the disease. He said Indian authorities are looking for replacements for the pair. The elephants were to go to Auckland Zoo.

Rare red diamond brings record price

NEW YORK (R) — A small red diamond, one of only three whose whereabouts are known, sold for \$880,000, a spokeswoman for Christie's auction house said. The red diamond, weighing .95 carats, brought the highest amount ever paid per carat, said spokeswoman Robin Riley. The rare stone was purchased by Theodore Horowitz, a Geneva-based wholesaler of jewels, after four other bidders drove the price up from its opening at \$275,000, she said. The bidders, two in the auction house and three bidding by telephone, paused briefly at \$760,000 before the final run-up to the record sale price, Riley said.

Man flies helicopter to North Pole

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australian publisher Dick Smith has become the first person to fly a helicopter to the North Pole, a Sydney radio station reported Wednesday. The report said Smith flew 1,500 kilometres from Canada's Ward Hunt Island to the pole. Word of his success was relayed by family members, it said. Smith's past exploits included circling the globe in a helicopter and expeditions to the South Pole. Smith publishes a magazine called Australian Geographic and runs a chain of electronic stores.

Climbers abandon Lhotse expedition

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — French climbers challenging Lhotse 1, one of the sister peaks of Everest, have abandoned their expedition to scale the 8,516-metre peak due to poor weather, their base camp reported by radio. The radio message said the five-member team, led by Eric Scoffier, 26, of Antibes, France, abandoned the expedition due to "heavy snowfall and avalanches" along the steep southern face of Lhotse 1, but did not elaborate on the decision.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ertson

APPARENT

By Bernice Gordon

ACROSS

1 Merquise de —

8 Pharo

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22 Talbot

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24 Mountain range

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28 Wind of rock

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31 The Last Sp.

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50 Eye part

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53 "Mabab"

54 Nick's wife

57 Sunlight part

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61 Afternoon

63 Rafter

64 The Last Sp.

66 Workman on

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68 Truffle

70 Machine part

72 Hoopoe

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